CCT

Columbia College Today

Fall 2021

GENE GENIUS

SAMUEL STERNBERG '07 IS ON THE CUSP OF A BIOCHEMISTRY BREAKTHROUGH

DEEP STATE

WHAT'S IT LIKE TO BE A JOURNALIST IN NORTH KOREA?

A BETTER HOLLYWOOD

ORION PICTURES PRESIDENT ALANA MAYO '06 IS MAKING REPRESENTATION A MANDATE





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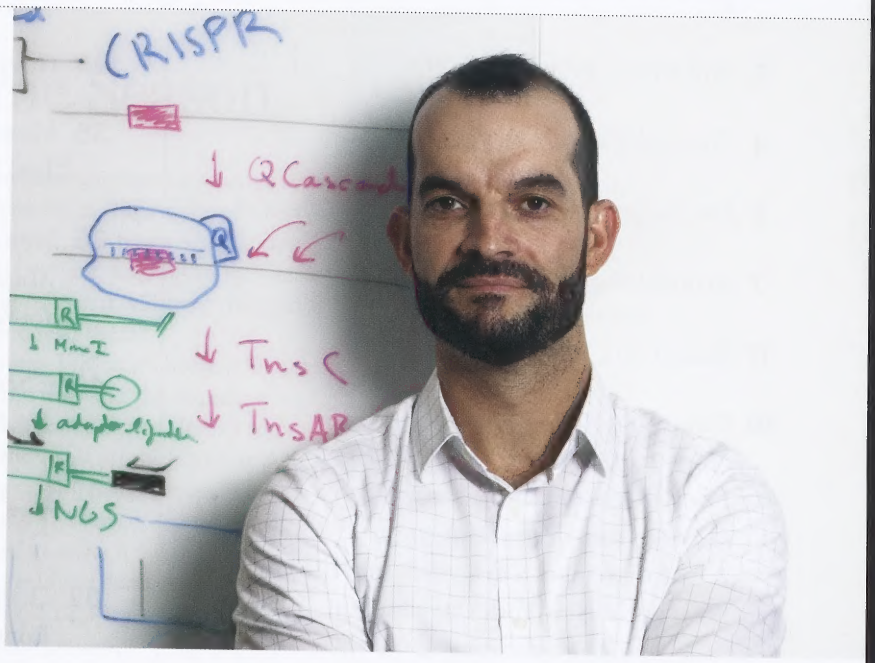
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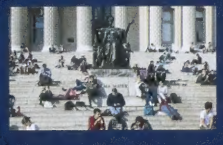
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An Alum Was the Architect of St. Patrick's Cathedral
Boost your knowledge of Columbia history with this "Did You Know?" video short.
>> **bit.ly/3DaMJg0**



Your Favorite Campus Places
We asked, you answered: These are the nine spots that Lions love!
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Alice Neel's Columbia Paintings
The subject of a popular show at the Met immortalized alumni, faculty and neighbors.
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JORG MEYER

Within the Family

A Welcome Season

It's hard to write this column when the world outside my door continues to change so quickly. I've delayed as long as I can, but on this hot afternoon in August, the procrastination has to end. Covid-19 still fills the news. Vaccination rates have risen, happily. But so, too, has the insistent strain known as the Delta variant, sending us into yet another phase of uncertainty. I'd like to say something timely, but what will have changed in the month between when I write these words and when you read them?

Still, the current uncertainty feels different, less overwhelming; I think it's because we've been heartened. We've recovered parts of our lives — both the dear and the mundane — that had been lost for so long. Many of us are having meals with friends again. There's some travel. We are preparing to resume commutes, return to the office, dust off the furniture and computers that sat untouched for more than a year. On campus, professors are again criss-crossing College Walk and students are returning to classrooms. The start of the fall semester typically brings a shot of new-pencil optimism and resolve to make it a good year, and this September is no different. Indeed, we have never been so ready to make it a good year.

We welcome this season of return with a commemorative *CCT* cover; inside the issue, we feature three alumni who have each in their way broken new ground.

Biochemist Samuel Sternberg '07 is an expert in CRISPR, the revolutionary technology that enables gene editing with relative ease and precision. (Scientists have likened it to placing a cursor next to a typo and deleting a single letter.) Now, several years into overseeing his own lab at Columbia, Sternberg is on a path of innovation: His research into so-called "jumping genes" could show them to be even better than CRISPR for gene editing. We profile this home-grown scientific star, who graciously welcomed us into his lab for a conversation about his team's pioneering work.

We also introduce Alana Mayo '06, who is marking one year as the president of Orion Pictures, the recently rebooted division of MGM that is focusing exclusively on underrepresented voices. With the studio's first film in production — and at a time when Hollywood is prioritizing diversity at all levels of movie-making — she's poised to redefine what it means to make intelligent, inclusive, forward-thinking cinema. Here, the longtime film buff opens up about her career path and influences, as well as her ambitions to transform an industry.

Finally, Jean H. Lee '92, JRN'95 is a former foreign correspondent with a remarkable story to tell: She founded the Pyongyang bureau of the Associated Press in 2012, making the AP the first international media with a full-time presence in North Korea. Lee recalls the enormous challenges that came with reporting in the notoriously repressive country, yet the word she ultimately uses to describe the experience is "illuminating." Read our feature to understand why.

I'd also urge you not to miss our back page, where we're thrilled to publish three portraits by the great 20th-century painter Alice Neel of her sons, Richard Neel '61, LAW'64 and Hartley Neel '63. Alice, who was the subject of a major retrospective at the Met this past summer, in fact had many Columbia connections, and immortalized a number of alumni, faculty and neighbors in her works. We share more paintings online, along with the exclusive stories behind them: college.columbia.edu/cct.

Welcome to all our CC'25 parents reading *CCT* for the first time. And to all of us, welcome back. May the subway ride to 116th Street never feel so uniquely notable again!

Alexis Boncy

Alexis Boncy SOA'11
Editor-in-Chief

CCT | Columbia College Today

VOLUME 49 NUMBER 1
FALL 2021

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Published three times a year by Columbia College for alumni, students, faculty, parents and friends.

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ISSN 0572-7820

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Beloved Butler

To celebrate the return of students to Morningside, *CCT* made a list of alumni's favorite campus spaces, culled from more than 150 responses in our online "Take Five" archives and polls across our social media channels. No spoilers, but the stacks, reading rooms, large tables and cozy corners of Butler Library secured it a spot near the top. "I know it's geeky but I loved every part of it," one alum says. "Being in Butler always made me feel that I was never alone in the struggle," says another. Check out "Your Favorite Campus Places" at college.columbia.edu/cct.

JENNA BASCOM PHOTOGRAPHY


the **Big** Picture



MATTHEW SEPTIMUS

Message from the Dean

An Optimistic Return to Campus

I write this letter on a day in late July after a long conversation with the student leaders responsible for planning and implementing our New Student Orientation Program (NSOP). Like so much else in the past 18 months, it will be an Orientation like no other. It addresses our newest students, the Class of 2025, and also our rising sophomores, the Class of 2024, who had a purely online Orientation last year. As the students and I sat and talked in Lerner Hall, all of us wearing masks, I learned a lot about their plans for NSOP. I also learned something else, something much more important: that despite all the challenges and difficulties each of these students has faced for a year and a half, a span of time representing more than a third of their undergraduate experience, they were as optimistic and enthusiastic, as imaginative and creative, as any NSOP leadership group of the past. They acted in the spirit of Beginner's Mind, seeing new possibilities for how to design this experience. Possibilities for our new students and for our not-so-new students, as well as possibilities for themselves. It made me feel — and I think should make all of us feel — optimistic about this year with our return to on-campus classes and residential life.

As I write the verb "return," I realize that while it is an accurate word for the time — as we indeed are coming back to both a place, our campus, and a set of activities, the education of our students — "return" does not convey what this fall really means for us. That is because we all carry an experience of disruption that will change how we think about our campus and our education. The aphorism "It is impossible to step in the same river twice," frequently attributed to the pre-Socratic philosopher Heraclitus, comes to mind as a wonderfully evocative metaphor for our "return." How I think about our College and the experiences our students will have within it has been altered from what I thought when writing my dean's letter for *CCT*'s Fall 2019 issue.

This year's NSOP leaders are not trying to replicate the structure, the substance or the feeling of 2019's Orientation. They know that the river they are stepping into is a quite different one, even if it looks the same. I know we are all cognizant of that, but I hope that in this academic year we take time, individually and collectively, to consider how we see our college now, with the new perspective that disruption has provided. How has our assessment of the undergraduate education we offer been changed? What new opportunities has the pandemic made us aware of? What have we learned that we can use to be an even better college?

I spent a lot of time during the pandemic thinking about the meaning of Heraclitus's river analogy as it pertains to Columbia College. I would sit on the bank of the Ho-Ho-Kus Brook, just a few steps from my house, which has been my office during much of the last 18 months, and watch the ever-changing water flow by; sometimes I even waded into it. And while I have "returned" the Dean's Office to Hamilton Hall, I still think about the flowing water in that brook.



SCOTT RUDD

As I begin my 11th year as dean, and my 32nd as a Columbia faculty member, I have been thinking about the flow of students through our college, the thousands I have taught, advised, written letters of recommendation for or just chatted with over the years. This issue of *CCT* has particular meaning for me in that regard. One of the feature stories is about Sam Sternberg '07, a biochemistry major who graduated during the time I chaired the chemistry department. Sam was a remarkable student in the classroom and in the lab, and an engaging interlocutor outside those scientific spaces. There is a particular pleasure for me in seeing him, the successful academic researcher, in these pages, and thinking back to seeing him in Havemeyer as a student.

For all of us who are faculty members, experiences like this inspire pride in what we do at the College. And no matter how things might continue to change, we know that we will always draw encouragement and satisfaction from seeing our students develop into successful and unique citizens. Roar, Lion(s), Roar!

James J. Valentini

James J. Valentini
Dean

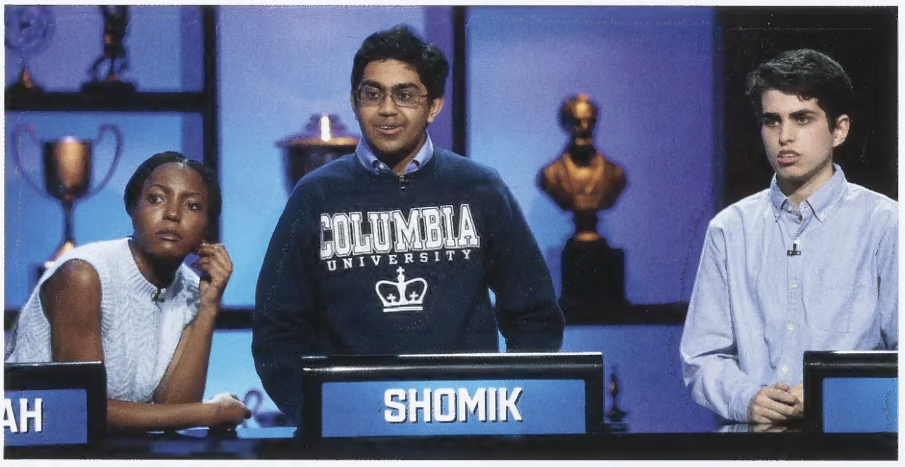
Around the Quads

Bowled Over!

The legendary *College Bowl* quiz show was back on TV this summer, with a fearsome threesome from Columbia vying for the first championship of a new era. Tamarah Wallace '22, Shomik Ghose SEAS'23 and Jake Fisher SEAS'22 had made it to the finals by the time this issue went to press, defeating Morehouse College, the University of Tennessee and Auburn University along the way.

The revived show, which originally aired in the 1960s, is hosted by NFL Hall of Fame quarterback Peyton Manning; students compete for a share of $1 million in scholarships.

The semifinals match on August 24, against Auburn, turned into a real nail-biter, with the Columbia team falling behind by as much as 220 points. Asked how they were feeling, Ghose said they were just trying to channel the spirit of New York City: hungry, scrappy and resilient. "We hope we can show that same resilience and bounce back," he said with a smile.



GREG GAYNE / NBC

And they did; the final score was 735–695.

If the Columbia team wins the championship, scheduled for September 7, it'll be its second time capturing the crown. The four-man team of Elia Racah '67, Jeffrey Rosen '68, Derek Randall '67 and Steven Ross '68 won the 1966–67 season with a perfect 5–0 record. Their student foes included teams from Providence College, Indiana University, Michigan State University, William & Mary and, finally, Smith (which notably attempted to intimidate the Lions with a sympathy card sent before the taping). Columbia took home a total of $10,500 in scholarship money.


MICHAEL DiVITO

New Leader for University Life

Dennis Mitchell, senior vice provost for faculty advancement and a professor of dental medicine at the Columbia University Medical Center, has been named executive VP for university life. Mitchell succeeds Suzanne Goldberg, who led the office for more than six years before stepping down in January to join the Biden-Harris administration.

Mitchell, who earned a doctorate in dental surgery from Howard University, joined the Columbia faculty in 1991 and has held a number of positions at the Dental School. From 2004 to 2021, he was the first diversity-focused dean at a U.S. dental school in his role as its senior associate dean for diversity; he was responsible for a nearly seven-fold increase in the percentage of students from underrepresented backgrounds.

Mitchell also has been in the Office of the Provost for the last seven years, helping to oversee the University's now more than $185 million investment in faculty diversity.

"An expert clinician, researcher and administrator, Dennis has devoted his 30-year career at Columbia to strengthening our community, perhaps most notably through his commitment to fostering an inclusive campus climate for new and rising faculty members," President Lee C. Bollinger said in an August 17 announcement. "He is a natural leader for University Life's critical work of building community among the next generation of thought leaders, researchers and innovators — our students."

In taking on his new role, Mitchell wants students to know that they have an advocate in him and in University Life. "I know how central the student experience is to everything we do at this university," he said. "We wouldn't be who we are or do what we do without our students, and I'm committed to making their time at Columbia as rewarding as it can possibly be."

Public Health Dual Degree

Undergraduates with an interest in public health now have a dual-degree option — a so-called "4+1" program that combines a B.A. from the College with an M.P.H. from the Mailman School of Public Health. The result of a new partnership between the schools, the dual degree enables students to earn an M.P.H., usually a two-year program, at an accelerated pace.

Students can apply in their junior year, and upon acceptance will spend the fall semester of their senior year enrolled at Mailman, before returning to the College in the spring semester to complete a B.A. After graduating they will matriculate at Mailman to complete a practicum and a year of coursework and thesis work to earn a master's.

"Over the past several years, we've seen an increase in interest among our students in matters related to public health," Dean James J. Valentini said. "This partnership between the College and Mailman creates a remarkable opportunity for students to combine an exceptional liberal arts undergraduate foundation with a world-class professional education in public health in five years. We're delighted to be able to offer this special preparation for the future leaders in the fields that support the health and well-being of populations around the world."

College Co-Chairs for CAA

In a first for the Columbia Alumni Association (CAA), which serves alumni across all University schools, a pair of College graduates have been elected to lead the organization as co-chairs: Michelle Estilo Kaiser '87, PH'92, PS'97 and Mary Kuo '92. The duo will lead several important initiatives during the next two years, including the development of the next five-year strategic plan. The CAA will also launch the CAA Scholarship program in September, addressing financial, career and life concerns for students across all 17 Columbia schools. Other College alumni elected to their first term on the CAA's Board were Peter Kang '05 and Danielle Maged '89, BUS'97.

Look*Who's*Talking

Tara Hanna

Associate Dean of Undergraduate Student Life and Executive Director of Residential Life



ESON CHAN

You've been at Columbia for nearly a decade! And much of that time was in Residential Life. What drew you to the College?

The opportunity to work with high-achieving students. The College's students are so incredible and passionate — being a small part of their journeys has been amazing and has kept me engaged year in and year out. Residential Life is incredibly dynamic, which is what makes it exciting. We see students at all times of the day, in their homes, during their good times and their not-so-good times. We really get to know students holistically; it's challenging but fun at the same time.

What's a typical day for you?

There is no typical day, and I love that! Each day brings new challenges and experiences. Much of my day-to-day involves supporting the Residential Life staff in their work with students — programming, leadership development, crisis response, wellness, behavioral conduct concerns, housing issues and so on.

What's the best part of your job?

Helping students feel more at home in the Columbia community, whether that be by supporting them through a crisis, or helping them find connections through fraternities, sororities, special interest communities or in their residence halls. It is rewarding to see students develop a sense of belonging.

How has the experience of the pandemic and being remote changed your thinking for the year ahead?

We all have gone through so much during the past year and a half, and many students haven't been on campus. Moving into this year, Residential Life wants to be intentional about connecting with students to support them as they integrate or reintegrate themselves into the community.

What are you most looking forward to as students are welcomed back to campus?

The ability to see folks in person — meeting students over Zoom is just not the same! Being able to connect in person is so valuable, and I really look forward to getting back to that.

Do you have any advice or encouragement to share with students as they adjust?

My advice to all students would be to remember the many resources that are available to you on campus and to not hesitate to reach out if you need something. I encourage everyone to take it one day at a time and to be patient as you experience the highs and lows that come with any big transition.

What's one thing about yourself that would surprise readers?

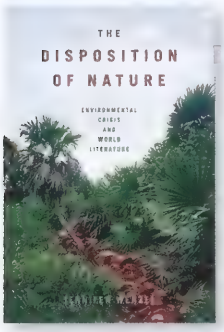
I am a Broadway fanatic and have seen more than 100 shows. I'm very much looking forward to Broadway reopening this fall! If anyone is looking for a new show, I highly recommend *Six*, which comes back on September 17. It is super fun and upbeat — like being at a concert. Also, great for any history buffs because it centers on the wives of Henry VIII (I majored in history so this really hit the spot!).



Jennifer Wenzel

By Jill C. Shomer

It might sound counterintuitive, but Jennifer Wenzel, an associate professor of English and comparative literature and Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies (MESAAS), and a scholar of postcolonial literature, is deeply interested in fossil fuels. Wenzel helped to found the relatively new subfield of energy humanities, which considers the relationship between energy systems and literature, and the ways that easy, inexpensive access to fossil fuels shapes our dreams and desires. "If you wake up in the morning and ask yourself what you might do that day, fossil fuels are silently shaping your expectations," she says. "You could drive somewhere. You could fly somewhere."



Wenzel started thinking about the relationship between literature and oil 20 years ago, while teaching a course about West African novels. In three Nigerian texts the commodities of palm oil, petroleum and publishing were interconnected; she was intrigued and dove into further research. Today, "Literature and Oil," a course that investigates the connections between literary and cultural production and the substance that literally fuels the world, is one of Wenzel's favorite classes to teach.

She's been writing on the subject for more than a decade; her most recent book, *The Disposition of Nature: Environmental Crisis and World Literature,* was published in 2019. "When I was working on the relationship between literature and oil extraction in Nigeria, the field of literary studies was of no help to me — no one else was working on this. I had to turn to anthropology, geography, political ecology. But now energy humanities is a really burgeoning field."

Wenzel spent her childhood in Pittsburgh, then her family moved to Texas when she was 10. She was always a voracious reader — Wenzel describes herself as a lifelong English major — but says her undergraduate education at a small liberal arts college in Sherman, Texas, was "canonical." A few classes in Japanese fiction and Chinese poetry, however, started her thinking about other kinds of literature.

She had the opportunity to travel to India one summer with a friend who was studying Hindi; instead of traveling the country, she taught herself Devanagari, the characters in which Hindi is written. "I turned myself into a student," she says. Reading paperbacks by Indian writers, she had an epiphany: Postcolonial literature could be her research focus.

Wenzel enrolled at the University of Texas at Austin, and earned a Ph.D. in ethnic and third world literatures in 1998. She taught in Montana and Boston, then spent 11 years at the University of Michigan before joining the College faculty at 2014.

"What's so amazing about Columbia for me is that it's an ideal combination of an approximation of a small liberal arts college, where I really thrived and became a scholar, and a world-class research institution," Wenzel says.

"The English department and MESAAS are the places where [the field of] postcolonial studies was born," she adds. "Edward Said really transformed literary studies; his student Gauri Viswanathan TC'85, whom I am proud to call a colleague, made an important argument about where literary studies as a discipline originated — with British colonialism in India. And then [University Professor] Gayatri C. Spivak is a world-class scholar of postcolonial theory. So I was thrilled to be joining this vibrant and important intellectual community."

As part of her dual department appointment, Wenzel teaches one class a year in MESAAS, including "The Novel in Africa," and "Literature and Cultures of

Struggle in South Africa: Generation of Resistance." She taught the latter online this past spring. "I love that class — I have all sorts of audio/visual material from the decades of the anti-apartheid struggle and the transition to democracy to accompany the literature we read. I wasn't sure it would translate from Hamilton Hall to Zoom, but I was humbled by the students' dedication and the energy we were able to create."

Wenzel says she missed being in the classroom during the pandemic year. "What I love most about teaching is being surprised by my students," she says. "To be standing in a classroom and just listening to intelligence coalescing in the comments of students. I love the cognitive energy you get from different kinds of brilliance — sometimes conflicting kinds of brilliance. There's something electric about that to me."

Wenzel is about to leave Morningside for a year in Paris; in the spring she'll teach in the Masters in History and Literature program at Reid Hall (part of Columbia Global Centers), but first she's taking a semester of sabbatical to work on a project she's calling "The Fossil Fueled Imagination: How and Why to Read for Energy."

"The news already informs us how oil saturates every aspect of our lives," Wenzel says, "but I do feel like there are things that I can contribute as a student of the imagination and narrative — like the ways that fossil fuels affect the stories we tell about ourselves and the world we inhabit."



MIKE McLAUGHLIN / COLUMBIA ATHLETICS

Did*You*Know?

The Third Time Was the Charm for the Bubble at Baker

On January 26, 1972, a storm swept across New York City with winds of more than 60 mph; Columbia wasn't immune from the destruction it wreaked. *The New York Times* reported: "At the northern end of Manhattan, the Dick Mason Airdome, known as the Bubble, at 218th Street near Broadway, collapsed shortly after noon. ... Damage was estimated at $100,000." The air-supported athletics space — 250 ft. long and 60 ft. high — had been erected just two years earlier, and was state of the art at the time.

The dome was reconstructed, but blew down again during 55-mph storm winds on February 2, 1976. At that point, the dream of the Bubble at Baker burst, and the University relocated the track team's practice site to South Field for the next few years.

On February 21, 2017, the Bubble rose once more, as advances in technology made a seasonal structure feasible again. The new Bubble cost approximately $10 million; it is inflated annually from December through March, and is used by the football, men's soccer, women's soccer, baseball, softball, field hockey and lacrosse teams. In April 2020, during the height of the pandemic in NYC, the Bubble was converted into a field hospital for treating Covid-19 patients.

ROAR, LION, ROAR

Congratulations, Olympic Lions!

A veritable pride of Lions traveled to Tokyo for the Summer Olympic Games, with two getting to show pride of another sort by carrying their countries' flags in the Opening Ceremony.

A record nine former varsity student-athletes, a former club rugby player, a skateboarder competing in the sport's Olympic debut and one current student-athlete participated in the games, held from July 23 to August 8. The flagbearers were **Nadia Eke '15** of Ghana and **Yasmeen Al Dabbagh '19** of Saudi Arabia, both track and field athletes; the honor also made them the first female Olympic flagbearers in Columbia school history.

In addition, **John Tanguay '20** earned a spot on the Paralympic rowing team; at press time, his first race was scheduled in Tokyo for August 26.

HERE'S HOW THEY DID

Maodo Lo '16, who competed on Germany's basketball team, started all of the team's games at point guard and led in scoring (13.5 ppg) and assists (5.0 apg). The team ultimately placed eighth in the bracket, falling in the quarterfinals to Slovenia.

Charlotte Buck '18 rowed in the U.S. women's eight, which was seeking its fourth straight Olympic gold; they just missed the podium, however, placing fourth at 6:02.78.



Yasmeen Al Dabbagh '19



Nadia Eke '15



Jackie Dubrovich '16 and Nicole Ross '13

GETTY SPORTS

Also in rowing, **Jakub Buczek '16** represented Canada in the men's four without coxswain; they earned an eighth-place finish overall and, notably, notched the boat's fastest finish ever, at 5:58.29.

As part of the U.S. women's foil team, **Jackie Dubrovich '16** and **Nicole Ross '13** helped the Americans reach the bronze medal match; there, the team fell to Italy, 45–23. Individually, both Dubrovich and Ross lost in the early rounds.

On the men's side, **Jake Hoyle '16** fell in the opening round of the individual épée tournament to a competitor from Korea; he also competed as part of the U.S. men's épée team, which lost in its opener to Japan.

Robb Paller '16 was a left fielder on Israel's first Olympic baseball team and started twice during the Olympic tournament, batting seventh; the team finished fifth overall.

In track and field, Eke competed in the triple jump, though she fouled in all three attempts during preliminary competition and did not advance. Al Dabbagh, meanwhile, ran a 13.34 in the preliminary round of the 100m dash, which was not enough to qualify for round one. She holds the Saudi Arabian women's record in the 100m with a time of 13.24.

Isadora Cerullo '13 competed as a member of the Brazilian rugby team, which placed 11th in the tournament.

Evita Griskenas '24 represented the United States in the women's rhythmic gymnastics individual all-around competition. Her score of 91.700 wasn't enough to take her from the qualification round to the finals; she earned 12th place overall.

Finally, in the Olympic debut of women's street skateboarding, **Alexis Sablone BC'08** just missed a medal for the U.S., capturing fourth with a score of 13.57.



COLUMBIA ATHLETICS

McGill Drafted by Atlanta Braves

Liam McGill '20, a four-year catcher for the Lions, was selected by the Atlanta Braves as the 277th pick in the ninth round of the MLB Amateur Draft in July. McGill, who hails from Wakefield, R.I., played a graduate season this year at Bryant University, where he earned All-America status and Northeast Player of the Year honors. "To be drafted in the ninth round is a huge honor and to be drafted by such a great organization like the Braves is an even bigger honor," McGill says.

At the College, McGill was a two-time All-Ivy League selection and a *Collegiate Baseball* Freshman All-American in 2017. He posted a career .316 batting average with 14 homers and 83 RBI in three-plus seasons with the Lions.


CRISPR
Q Cascade
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TnsAB
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SAMUEL STERNBERG '07'S LATEST DISCOVERY COULD BE A GIANT LEAP IN GENE EDITING

BY MATTHEW HUTSON

MPSTART

PHOTOGRAPHS BY JÖRG MEYER

When biochemist Samuel Sternberg '07 returned to Columbia in 2018 to set up his own research lab, he wasn't sure he was up for it. After finishing his Ph.D., he'd spent a year writing a book, then a year at a biotech startup, forgoing the more traditional route of a multi-year fellowship in academic research. "I came back here with a huge bag of insecurities and a case of impostor syndrome," he says. "I felt like, gosh, I hope that I'm going to be able to pull this off." After not pursuing his own research ideas for a while, he says, "We had to kind of start from zero."

What's more, his Ph.D. advisor and co-author, and a co-founder of the biotech startup, was Jennifer Doudna, the biochemist known for her revelatory work showing how a molecule called CRISPR-Cas9 could be used to edit an organism's genetic material; the discovery earned her a share of the Nobel Prize in chemistry last year. "I wanted to make sure I put my head down and worked

STERNBERG BEGAN WORKING ON CRISPR MORE THAN A DECADE AGO, WHEN IT WAS A BIT RISKY PROFESSIONALLY — JUST "THIS VERY NICHE, ESOTERIC THING IN BACTERIA."

on our research program, and didn't try to rest on the laurels of Jennifer's accolades," Sternberg says.

Insecurities aside, Sternberg had in fact established himself as one of the country's leading experts in CRISPR-Cas9 — with patents and prominent papers to his name — and he had ideas for expanding on the promise of that technology. His focus paid off almost immediately. Within months, Sternberg's Columbia lab had a major paper in *Nature,* about so-called "jumping genes," which could prove even better than CRISPR for gene editing. "Now we're doing all these things that three years ago would have seemed well beyond reach," he says. The work could someday help researchers treat cancer, produce biofuels, or make crops hardier and tastier. Indeed, last year Sternberg won a $2.4 million grant from the NIH, awarded to "especially creative" scientists working on innovative, high-impact projects.

I mentioned Sternberg's initial self-doubts to Sanne Klompe GSAS'22, a graduate student in his lab and the lead author of the *Nature* paper. "That's funny you say that," she says. "I don't know if he realizes how good he is." Reflecting on her decision to join his lab, she says, "I knew he was going to be great. And I wanted to be part of that."



COURTESY SAMUEL STERNBERG '07

Sternberg with his Ph.D. advisor, biochemist Jennifer Doudna, and Columbia lab colleague Sanne Klompe GSAS'22.

STERNBERG GREW UP in Lancaster, Pa., playing piano, saxophone and baseball. (He almost went to Oberlin for musical performance.) His dad was a geology professor, and Sternberg did science fair projects, but he was never passionate about the subject until he took chemistry and biology courses at the College. In high school bio, he'd learned about leaves and frogs, but not molecules. "It was taking organic chemistry sophomore year that I remember as being pivotal in awakening my true scientific curiosity," he says. "Learning how chemicals can transform in very predictable ways. And that there's a kind of logic."

Carrying coffee, a textbook and a stack of plain white paper, Sternberg would go to Butler Library and sit at a wooden table under the high ceiling and draw out chemical reactions, exploring all the ways basic building blocks could transform under various conditions.

The other pivotal point came junior year, when he joined the lab of Ruben Gonzalez, an enthusiastic researcher "at the top of his game" who served as a great mentor. Sternberg was inspired enough to take on his own project in the lab — studying how cells complete the production of proteins — an unusual opportunity for an undergrad. "He was fantastic at the lab bench, and quickly became a voice in research meetings," Gonzalez says. "I always told him he operated like a graduate student." Sometimes he operated like a sailor. "His notebooks were very colorful," Gonzalez says. "Let's just say that when experiments weren't working, you could tell."

Sternberg stayed a year and a half past graduation to finish the project, becoming the lead author of a paper in *Nature Structural & Molecular Biology*. "Having gone through my first experience of not just how you do research at the bench," Sternberg says, "but also how you plan experiments, how you put together a series of data into one story. That was an invaluable experience."

STERNBERG JOINED Doudna's lab at UC Berkeley as a grad student in 2009, shortly before she made the discovery that would earn her a Nobel Prize. The lab had just begun working on CRISPR, which was a bit risky professionally, because at the time it was just "this very niche, esoteric thing in bacteria," Sternberg says, and not the tool for studying cells or the therapy for treating genetic diseases that it is today.

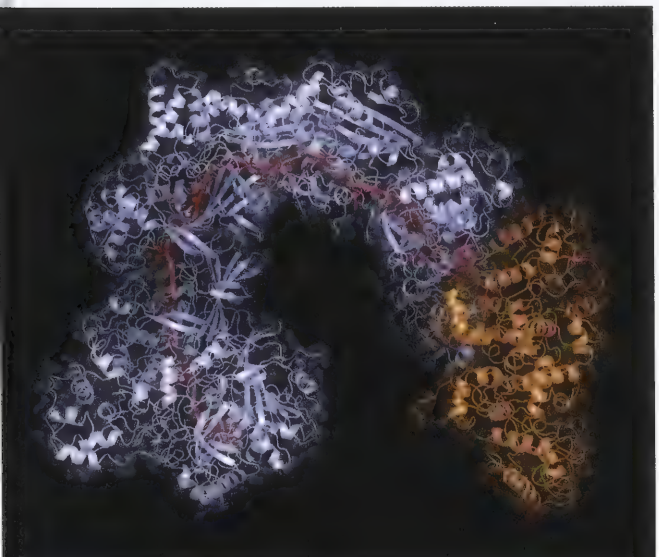
In five years at Berkeley, including a six-month stint back at Columbia working with biochemist Eric Greene, Sternberg co-authored several important papers focusing on the Cas9 enzyme — a feature of many CRISPR systems — and how it works. One showed how to engineer versions of Cas9 that snip DNA more accurately, work that several companies have since licensed.

"When he was in the lab, I thought of him as our Renaissance man," Doudna says. "Wonderful scientist, incredible musician, loved to have a good time and share ideas, a deep intellect, loved to debate ideas in science." When asked for possibly embarrassing material, she mentioned his Michael Jackson tribute band. "The lab finally talked me into going to one of his performances in San Francisco, and it was a ton of fun," she says. "I just loved it. It was a side of Sam that I hadn't had a chance to experience."



Sternberg and Klompe analyze the 3D structure of the CRISPR molecular system called Cascade (also seen at left).

Sternberg didn't co-author Doudna's breakthrough paper demonstrating how CRISPR-Cas9 could edit genes, but he was there at the time, and suggested to Doudna that they write a book for general audiences about the discovery. When an agent reached out, they went for it. "It seemed like a bit of a gamble, but I also knew that I would probably never have a better opportunity to write a book like this," Sternberg says. "And I think it was important for me to put my scientific work and the field's development in a broader context." *A Crack in Creation: Gene Editing and the Unthinkable Power to Control Evolution* (2017) covers not just the science but also the ethics of gene editing (think designer babies). *The New York Times* called it "required reading for every concerned citizen."



SAMUEL STERNBERG '07

Sternberg worked with Doudna again at Caribou, the company she co-founded to further develop gene-editing technology; he was an early employee, acting as both a scientist and a leader of the technology development group. He learned a couple of lessons there, he says. First, he picked up the managerial professionalism he would bring to his lab at Columbia a year later. Second, he learned that he preferred academia — having the opportunity to experiment and explore ideas without concern for a bottom line.

"The first discovery we made in my new lab is the perfect example of a project that would have been too speculative for a private company to pursue," he says, "but has been absolutely transformative in creating new versions of CRISPR."

ONE DOWNSIDE of CRISPR-Cas9 as a gene-editing tool is that it slices through DNA, which a cell must then repair. Many things can go awry in this process. While working at Caribou, Sternberg came across a paper on transposons, or jumping genes, which could offer an alternative. A jumping gene is actually a cluster of genes that reproduces by taking over bacterial machinery. It inserts itself into a bacterial genome and essentially forces the cell to reproduce it. Its clones then hop over to new bacterial cells and repeat the process.

DO JUMPING GENES HOLD THE KEY TO A SAFER, MORE RELIABLE GENE-EDITING TOOL?

Critically, a jumping gene inserts itself into a genome without creating the kind of DNA damage that CRISPR-Cas9 does. What's more, the paper's authors noted that some jumping genes contain the genetic code for a CRISPR system called Cascade, raising the possibility that jumping genes use it to target specific sites in bacterial genomes. Sternberg hoped to test this hypothesis in his Columbia lab (he had applied for faculty positions and been welcomed back in 2018). If jumping genes insert DNA into genomes without harming them, and do so in precise ways, they could perhaps be harnessed as a new gene-editing tool — one that would be safer and more reliable than any other at scientists' disposal.

Sternberg recently gave me a tour of his eponymous lab, a series of rooms at P&S with his office in the center. He and Sanne Klompe, whom he'd known as a Caribou intern, started the lab from scratch, ordering pipettes and scrounging for equipment. (Sternberg actually used his jumping genes theory as his pitch to persuade Klompe to stay in the United States rather than return to the Netherlands for a Ph.D.) The pair were soon joined by two more graduate students, Tyler Halpin-Healy '11, GSAS'21 and Leo Vo GSAS'21.



Sternberg and Dennis Zhang '24 discuss data while plotting future experiments.

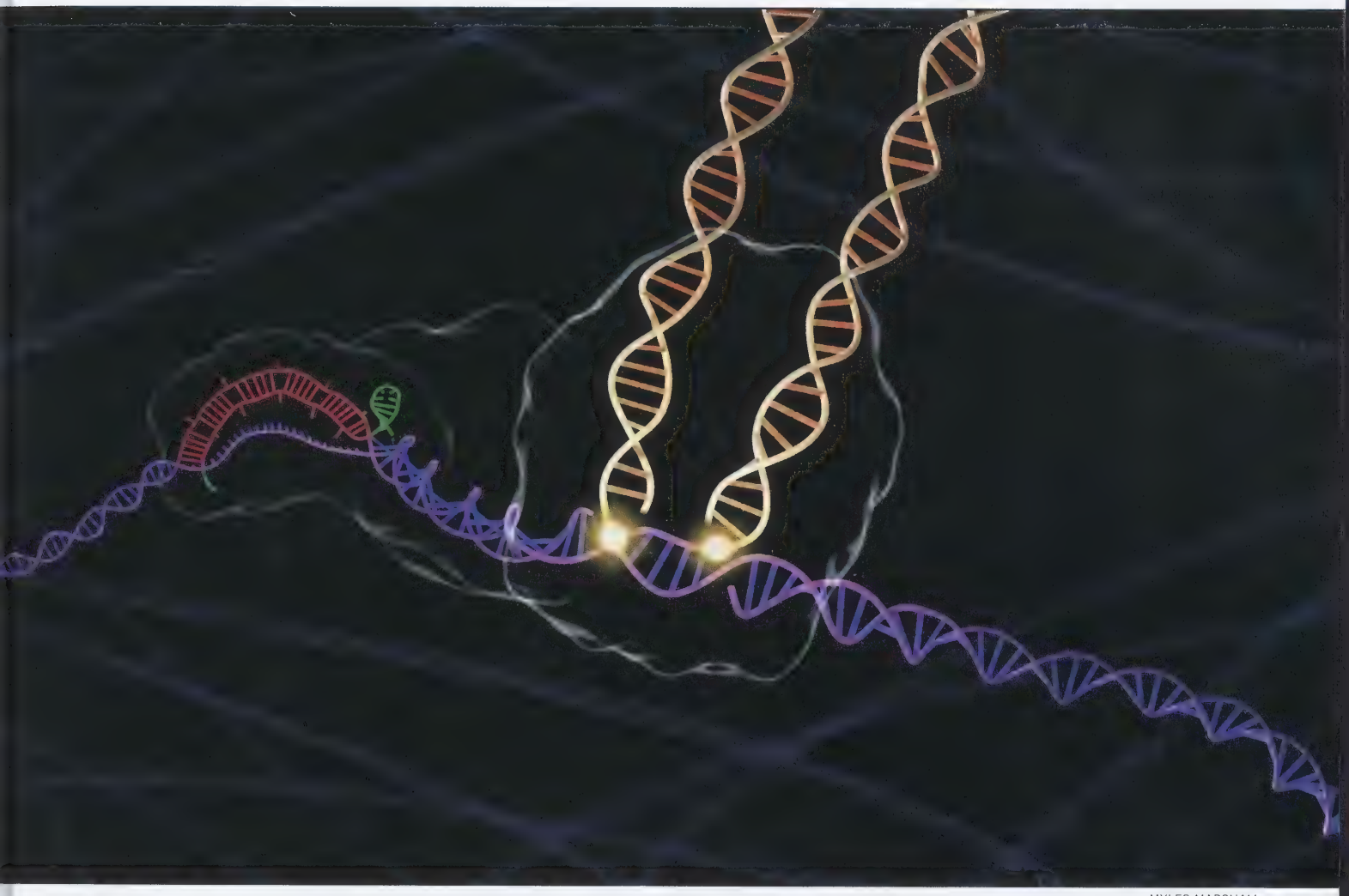
On our tour, Sternberg pointed out various machines that duplicate DNA or purify proteins. I watched as Klompe used a device to "heat shock" cells so that the DNA designed by the lab would enter them. "To be quite truthful, we don't have much distinctive equipment," Sternberg told me. "Our distinction is discovering new CRISPR systems."

Much of that discovery happens on computers. "In the first few months in the lab, Sanne was spending most of her time at the computer sifting through genomes, deciding which candidate genes to prioritize to go after this hypothesis," Sternberg says. On a computer in his office, he showed me the sequence of DNA letters for Cascade, alongside its 3D rendering. The cluster of proteins vaguely resembled a seahorse, with a spine made of guide RNA. Guide RNA is the genetic sequence a CRISPR system uses to target specific locations in a host genome. Wherever this bit of guide RNA matches a stretch of DNA, CRISPR does its gene-editing work.

In those early months, deciding on the exact Cascade design to test required "a zillion decisions," Sternberg says. Once he and his team were ready, they made the DNA for their jumping gene and inserted it into bacteria. The genes dutifully targeted the bacterial genome in the right spot, and inserted their DNA payload. To see the results, they ran the bacterial DNA through a gel and looked for a telltale band of color, indicating that the bacteria now had the desired genetic code. "And my God, Sanne saw a little smudge of a band," Sternberg says. They reran the experiment. "And now," Sternberg says, "that smudge on the gel was a big fat band. And then within days of that, Sanne had sequenced that band and we knew, boom, it's happening."

They ran more experiments and published the *Nature* paper, which, Sternberg says, "landed the lab on the map, landed Sanne's career on the map and in a ridiculous way played out the exact way that I had hoped and dreamed when I first proposed: Hey, what about we go after this project in my new lab at Columbia?"

Sternberg's lab — and others, too — are now expanding on that research. For example, his lab is applying the tool to human cells and is working with the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation to replace the defective gene that causes the respiratory disease. They're working with Harris Wang, a synthetic biologist at Columbia, to engineer jumping genes that can operate in the complex environment of the gut microbiome. And they're looking for even better versions of



MYLES MARSHALL

The above rendering shows a new CRISPR technology, developed in the Sternberg Lab, that enables RNA-guided DNA integration. Unlike conventional CRISPR-Cas9 tools for gene editing, this technology inserts DNA without cutting.

Cascade in the diversity of living organisms. "We can barely compete with what nature has already invented," Klompe says.

STERNBERG'S LAB now stands at about 15 people. "What I really appreciate in him as a mentor is that everything is a conversation," Klompe says. "Instead of telling me what to do, it's almost like, OK, what shall we do next?" When the lab was small and people stayed late to work on that first paper, Sternberg would order dinner. "It was like a little scientific family having dinner in the break room," she says. The lab's walls feature fliers celebrating members' achievements; one advertises a lab outing to the sci-fi movie *Rampage,* in which a CRISPR-modified pathogen leads to the creation of a giant gorilla, wolf and crocodile. According to Sternberg, "We built an environment that's not just about the science, but also a place where people will grow as individuals and develop their career aspirations."

Colleagues have not been surprised to see Sternberg's success. "His scientific instinct is amazing," Ruben Gonzalez says. "It's been a lot of fun to watch." (The two still get beers and are collaborating on a project.) According to Doudna, "He's doing some of the most creative work in the discovery of CRISPR systems right now and figuring out how they work." Walter Isaacson, who wrote the best-selling biography *The Code Breaker: Jennifer Doudna, Gene Editing, and the Future of the Human Race,* met with Sternberg regularly to pick his brain. "There's a boyish enthusiasm," Isaacson says. "He's excited about the smallest details of how nature works."

Sternberg still sometimes questions why he's the one with an office. He notes that some members of his lab have expertise surpassing his own. "My biggest learning experience here has been realizing that that's actually OK," he says. "Being a good scientist doesn't mean you know how to do everything. One of the best skills I learned from Ruben and from Jennifer is to be resourceful, and to engage with your colleagues. It's all about putting all the different skills in the pot."

Matthew Hutson *is a freelance science reporter in New York City and a contributing writer at* The New Yorker.



COURTESY JEAN H. LEE '92, JRN'95

A JOURNALIST'S UNMATCHED ACCESS



Lee prepares to give a live broadcast from Kim Il Sung Square in Pyongyang, North Korea, in April 2013.

Jean H. Lee '92, JRN'95 looks back on three "illuminating" years working in North Korea

By Nathalie Alonso '08

A JOURNALIST'S UNMATCHED ACCESS

In February 2013, after conducting a widely condemned nuclear weapons test and just days before leader Kim Jong Un infamously welcomed visiting NBA star Dennis Rodman, North Korea launched its first mobile internet network. Though it was only available to foreigners, it was a newsworthy move for a totalitarian regime with a decades-long policy of extreme isolation.

As the Korea Bureau chief for the Associated Press, Jean H. Lee '92, JRN'95 reported all of this news from the capital city of Pyongyang. The day the internet service went live, she tweeted, *Hello world from comms center in #Pyongyang.* It is considered the first Twitter missive sent from a cellphone inside North Korea. "It was a significant moment, connecting North Korea to the outside world," says Lee.

In an extraordinary three-year period that began in early 2011, Lee spent most of her time working in North Korea, which rarely grants entry to Western journalists. In addition to covering the rallies and military parades that have become emblematic of the communist nation, she visited farms, villages, schools, factories, military academies and private homes — an unmatched level of access for an American reporter. Lee was responsible for officially opening the Pyongyang bureau in January 2012, making the AP the first international media outlet with a full-time presence inside the country.

"Jean was there when news happened," says the AP's former chief Asia photographer, David Guttenfelder, who helped to open the Pyongyang bureau and often worked alongside Lee. "She was there for some of the most heated moments between North Korea and its neighbors and the United States. She was there when North Korea expanded and tested its nuclear capabilities. But more than that, we both had a chance to see real people with real lives."

Lee was the only AP reporter allowed to stay in the country for extended periods. She believes her Asian heritage — she was born in Minnesota to South Korean emigres and is fluent in Korean — was key to securing such unprecedented access. "I didn't look like anybody they thought of as American," Lee says. "That worked to my advantage."

A North Korean soldier on the steps of Panmungak Hall, on the North side of the Demilitarized Zone that divides the two Koreas. Behind him are the Military Armistice Commission buildings (guarded by both North and South Korean soldiers), the Military Demarcation Line and the Freedom House, located on the South Korea side.



JEAN H. LEE '92, JRN'95

A decade after her pioneering efforts, Lee is now a senior fellow at the Hyundai Motor-Korea Foundation Center for Korean History and Public Policy at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. The highly regarded Washington, D.C.-based think tank informs public policy debates about the Koreas through research.

Lee hopes her work will prepare journalists who will be reporting from North Korea understand what they're getting into, while allowing her to continue processing her own experience there. Working in an impoverished country where life is rigidly controlled by the state — and where, as a foreigner and a journalist, she was under constant surveillance — exacted a mental and emotional toll; however, Lee calls it "a dream for any correspondent covering Asia to go to North Korea."

"As traumatizing as my assignment was, and it really was traumatizing, it also was so illuminating," she says. "That's what you want as a journalist."



JEAN H. LEE '92, JRN'95

North Koreans on the plaza outside Kumsusan Palace of the Sun, where the body of North Korea's first president, Kim Il-Sung, lies in state.

Lee's first day as AP's Korea Bureau chief was September 9, 2008. The date was no coincidence; it marked the 60th anniversary of North Korea's founding, an occasion that was to be commemorated with a massive military parade.

Within an hour of arriving at the AP office in Seoul, Lee was given her extraordinary mission: to establish a full news operation in Pyongyang, where the agency already had a video bureau. "I remember thinking, 'I don't even know how to get into the country legally,' " Lee says. "How do you open an office in a country that considers *your* country an enemy?"

But Lee had no time to ponder the enormity of her assignment. North Korea leader Kim Jong Il was a no-show at the parade, a stunning development that suggested he was incapacitated or dead, and sparked fears of political unrest in a country with a nuclear arsenal.

With no time to settle into her job, Lee had to mobilize reporters around the globe.

It turned out Kim Jong Il had suffered a stroke, but, according to Lee, he was eager to reach out to the U.S. to help chart a path forward for his son and heir, Kim Jong Un.

Lee visited Pyongyang for the first time in 2009, a few weeks after President Clinton met with the elder Kim to negotiate the release of two American journalists whom North Korea had accused of trespassing and sentenced to 12 years of hard labor, presumably to use them as political bargaining chips. "It was a really nerve-wracking time," says Lee. "I thought, 'Am I going to be the next American journalist they're going to take into custody?'"

Nonetheless, unsure that she would ever return to North Korea, during a stay in the capital, Lee took a calendar from her hotel room as a souvenir. She was "flabbergasted" when she checked into the same hotel a year later and was asked to pay for it.

"It could have been a very serious offense," says Lee.

Eventually, Lee became the first American allowed to join the foreign press corps in Pyongyang, which gave her access to state events. "I think I was seen as part of that larger message that they wanted to send — that they were ready and prepared to open up to the West," she says.

LEE HOPES HER WORK WILL PREPARE JOURNALISTS WHO WILL BE REPORTING FROM NORTH KOREA UNDERSTAND WHAT THEY'RE GETTING INTO.

In December 2011 she was in Beijing, waiting to board a flight to Pyongyang to inaugurate the AP office, when news broke of Kim Jong Il's death. A mourning period and transition of power followed, resulting in tighter restrictions for journalists. "All of the ambitious plans I had fell by the wayside," says Lee.

During her three years covering North Korea on the ground, Lee typically spent four to six weeks at a time inside the country before returning to Seoul for a day or two. Initially, she neglected to pack medicine, which is scarce in North Korea, as are most supplies. Often sick due to a lack of clean water, Lee learned

to travel with everything from portable solar panels (electricity, plumbing and running water are often nonexistent in the countryside) to food and coffee, which meant buying everything from the Starbucks at the airport in Beijing.

But it was the psychological strain of surveillance that really tested Lee. The hotel room in Pyongyang that she considered home was bugged. "Feeling like anything you said could put you in harm's way was really difficult," Lee says.

IT WAS THE PSYCHOLOGICAL STRAIN OF SURVEILLANCE THAT REALLY TESTED LEE.

During early reporting trips, Lee was accompanied by two minders, or, as they preferred to be called, "guides." Later, the North Koreans she hired to be her drivers, reporters and photographers monitored her activities. "You can choose to be aware of it or be oblivious to it," Lee says of the surveillance. "But given the amount of time I spent there, and the candid conversations I had with North Koreans, they wouldn't let me be oblivious. I was privy, and I was made aware of all of that, because I speak Korean."

And then there was the isolation from the outside world. It wasn't until 2013 that Lee was allowed to bring a cellphone into North Korea. Before that, like all foreigners, she had to leave her iPhone at the airport, which made her feel "really stranded." (Word of the tsunami that triggered a nuclear disaster in neighboring Fukushima, Japan, in March 2011 did not reach her in Pyongyang.)

The insular environment made basic journalistic tasks, like filing a story, absurdly difficult. Yet although the state controls all media in North Korea, Lee says she never showed her writing to government officials before publication: "I just told them they could google it, which they did."

Nonetheless, in a country where hard labor is a common punishment for minor offenses, Lee knew her work could put locals in danger, which meant weighing potential ramifications for her sources. "It was impossible to report properly from North Korea," says Lee. "You worry what is going to happen to the people you interview and you work with."

"Who would I have been? How would I have survived?" These questions swirled in Lee's mind as she traveled around North Korea for the AP, witnessing the poverty and malnutrition in one of the world's poorest countries. Eager to help her local sources but mindful of U.S. sanctions, Lee limited gifts to baby items, like newborn clothes and soap, which she knew the recipients would not sell on the black market.

"I have an incredible amount of compassion for the North Koreans because they're not so different from me," says Lee.

Lee also negotiated the right to distribute foreign reading material, like dictionaries and novels, which is usually forbidden. "I wanted to try to share what North Korea is like today, but I also wanted them to see what America is like today," she says.

To blend in, Lee dressed and styled her hair like North Korean women and adopted the local dialect. Being inconspicuous allowed her to take candid videos and photos, a selection of which she uploaded to her Instagram account. Some of the images are expected: soldiers goose-stepping; children receiving red scarves in an initiation ritual. But it's the glimpses of everyday life that are the most compelling: a woman at a beauty salon with a head full of curlers; children buying Mother's Day gifts; three women on a bench at an ice-skating rink. Such moments defy the propaganda that often depicts a robotic society.

Lee's work was not always well received, however. The AP, which shared office space with state media, drew criticism from journalists and human rights activists for operating in North Korea. But Lee and Guttenfelder defend their work. "As complicated as it was, as imperfect as it was, as challenging as it was, and not being able to work like you would in any other country, I would argue it was very important and valuable to have independent eyes on the ground there," Guttenfelder says.



JEAN H. LEE '92, JRN'95

North Korean girls in traditional dress for Kim Il-Sung's birthday, April 15, known as Day of the Sun.



COURTESY JEAN H. LEE '92, JRN'95

Lee speaking with a tour guide at Mount Paektu, North Korea, in April 2012.

Lee says she was called a propagandist, an accusation she decries as "racist and sexist." "People took one look at me and saw an Asian woman and assumed I would be a convenient puppet for the regime," she says. "I was constantly characterized as 'naive.' But anyone who knows me well knows how wrong that characterization is. I was the toughest person on our team.

"It's true that I didn't get all the access I wanted. North Korea is a tough place to be an American foreign correspondent, especially when it comes to the written word, and it wasn't easy being the first. But I pushed and got more access than anyone before me."

Lee grew up in Orono, a suburb of Minneapolis. Her maternal grandfather, a journalist in South Korea, introduced her to the profession. At the College, where she majored in East Asian studies and English, she was on the staff of *Spectator* each of her four years. "I considered learning the craft of journalism at *Spectator* just as much a part of my education," she says.

Equally important was the experience of coordinating Asian Pacific American Awareness Month on campus as a senior, which Lee says proved useful when she found herself organizing reporting trips to North Korea.

After graduation, Lee worked for two years at *The Korea Herald,* an English-language newspaper in Seoul. Her work there caught the eye of the AP, but Lee had already decided to pursue a master's at the Journalism School. After finishing that degree in 1995, she accepted the AP's offer and was posted to the agency's bureau in Baltimore. She bounced around from California, to New York, to London before landing her dream job as bureau chief in Seoul.

Lee's post on the Korean peninsula ended in 2013. Staying with the AP would have meant being relocated to another country, but she wasn't ready to move on from North Korea. "I wanted to take the time to understand what I saw there," she says.

That's how Lee ended up at the Wilson Center, which she first joined as a public policy fellow in 2015. She was the director of the Center for Korean History and Public Policy from April 2018 until this year, when she transitioned to senior fellow, which allows her to devote all her energy to research and writing. "My role is to provide context and analysis," says Lee, adding that she always tries to "position things from the perspective of the North Koreans."

Lee is still very active in the media world, often as a guest speaker. This year, she was featured in the *National Geographic* special *North Korea: Inside the Mind of a Dictator* and the Netflix series *How to Become a Tyrant.* She also co-hosts *The Lazarus Heist,* a popular BBC podcast about a high-profile cybercrime that investigators have linked to North Korea.

Yet even as she educates others about North Korea, Lee continues to try to understand it herself. "It's still this cipher, even for someone like me," she says.

Nathalie Alonso '08, *from Queens, is a freelance writer and an editorial producer for LasMayores.com, Major League Baseball's official Spanish-language website.*

Moving the Film World Forward

By Scott Meslow



Orion Pictures president Alana Mayo '06 wants audiences to see themselves on screen

Photographs by Da'Shaunae Marisa

You could build a solid "Intro to Film" course based solely on the movies Alana Mayo '06 watched and admired before she graduated from the College. *Apocalypse Now,* which she saw on LaserDisc when she was 10. *2001: A Space Odyssey,* which she eventually studied for an entire semester under film professor Richard Peña. The complete works of Alfred Hitchcock, consumed in a single eyeball-glazing summer, when she decided to rent every one from her local video store. (For the record: That's 53 movies, or roughly one movie every two days, though she acknowledges she might have stopped a little shy of the finish line.)

Most of all, there was Spike Lee, a director whose films Mayo loved so much, she confesses, that her personal email address contained the word "Spiky." It was *Malcolm X,* Lee's 1992 biographical drama about the legendary activist, that first opened Mayo's mind to the full range of what a film could do. "I remember watching Spike Lee on *Inside the Actors Studio,* and him talking about how he went to all of these Black celebrities to get money that he needed to finish this film," she says. "Hearing the story got me thinking, 'Wow, this is a powerful political medium, and it's bigger than just the entertainment piece of it.'"

If this were a superhero movie — a genre Mayo, admittedly, doesn't have much tolerance for — this moment might be cast as her origin story. Speaking today, with one year as president of the MGM division Orion Pictures under her belt, Mayo is making exactly the kind of movies she might have devoured as an eager young cinephile: intelligent, forward-thinking, diverse and unapologetically political. If her vision succeeds, Orion could emerge as both a template and a beacon for a Hollywood that is only just beginning to reckon with its deep-seated inequities. Mayo — who is Black, and identifies as a queer woman — recognizes the responsibility, the privilege and the opportunity she has to reach filmgoers who have, historically, been either marginalized or ignored entirely. "We're going to invite audiences to see themselves on screen," she says.



ANDREW TOTH / GETTY IMAGES

Mayo and actor Michael B. Jordan in February 2020; the two teamed up to help create a more equitable Hollywood at Jordan's production company, Outlier Society.

Mayo grew up obsessed with stories. As a child in the Chicago suburbs, she'd sometimes end up reading in the shower because she couldn't put a book down. She came to Columbia confident that storytelling, in some capacity, was her calling. While studying both film and English, she landed an internship with up-and-coming director Lee Daniels, and was soon plucked out of the pool to become his personal assistant. It was a quick education in the never-ending hustle required of any talented filmmaker with something to say, as Daniels courted investors to help finish his debut film, *Shadowboxer,* while simultaneously preparing for his next project, *Precious: Based on the Novel 'Push' by Sapphire.* (The latter went on to earn six Academy Award nominations, including one for Best Picture.)

After Mayo graduated, Daniels recommended her for a personal assistant gig for rocker Lenny Kravitz. She might have taken it, if not for a five-minute phone call with a family friend at the storied Hollywood agency CAA, who helped Mayo figure out the career track she actually wanted to be on. She told him she wanted to work in production and development; in very short order, he mapped out the trajectory of someone who wants to do that professionally. "And then he said, 'But you've got to come to L.A.'"

For Mayo, who loved New York and had long fantasized about remaining after graduation, this was extremely unwelcome news. Undaunted, she sat down and made a concrete, five-year plan to conquer Hollywood so she could bring a thriving career as an executive back to New York. Speaking now — 15 years later and in the heart of Los Angeles — she smiles at the memory. "I was naive and foolhardy."

AARON J. THORNTON / GETTY IMAGES



Mayo spoke on a panel about women-run productions as part of last year's ESSENCE House: Hollywood Edition.

If Mayo's ambitions were a bit starry-eyed, she was also uniquely well positioned to recognize and adapt to a seismic change in Hollywood. "I could sense that there were these massive shifts happening in the movie business from the moment I landed here," she says. "The studios were all shifting very quickly from making any kind of original films to these huge, branded, IP-driven blockbusters. *Exclusively.* That was clearly the bread and butter."

These were not the kind of movies that appealed to Mayo. But it was an opportunity to rethink what a career in Hollywood might look like, and carve out the middle ground that might still exist for anyone who was canny enough to pursue it. She was eventually hired to work under producers Andrew Lazar and Miri Yoon, who were creating their own intriguing niche. "It was not the sexiest deal, at the time, at Warner Bros.," she says. "We weren't making *Harry Potter* or *Batman.* But we *were* making movies. And I quickly realized: You want to make movies that people see. Some of them can be for a smaller audience, but it's a good thing if you make something that's accessible to a lot of people."

If Mayo's vision succeeds, Orion Pictures could emerge as a template and a beacon for a Hollywood that is only just beginning to reckon with its deep-seated inequities.

The job was an education in the sheer range of possibilities at any major Hollywood studio. Within the same year, Mayo worked on *Get Smart,* an $80 million action-comedy based on the beloved '60s TV series, and *I Love You Phillip Morris,* a $13 million dramedy about two prison inmates who fall in love. The experience helped her pin down the kind of movie she would — in a perfect world — get to make. "To be crass about it, I love movies that are made at a price point where you can have originality and experimentation. Which is usually $30 million and under," she says.

That philosophy was put into practice in her subsequent job at Paramount Pictures, where Mayo developed, among other projects, the horror script *A Quiet Place.* The movie drew some notice when *The Office*'s John Krasinski signed on to direct, with his wife, Emily Blunt, in the lead; but as one of the many, many scripts kicking around Hollywood pretty much all the time, there was nothing about *A Quiet Place* that screamed "blockbuster." It wasn't based on a well-known intellectual property, like the previous year's horror hit, an adaptation of Stephen King's *It.* The scope was relatively modest, with a $22 million budget to match. But Mayo, while not exactly a horror junkie, saw something unique in it. "What I loved was that it was an opportunity to do a silent film today. For the right director, to tell a story through sound design and performance ... It is thematically, and technically, exactly the kind of movie I love," she says.

As it turned out, *A Quiet Place* was exactly the kind of movie audiences loved, too. The movie grossed $350 million and spawned a hit sequel earlier this year, with a third movie already in the works. "It really validated my belief that art and commerce don't have to be mutually exclusive," Mayo says.

By the time *A Quiet Place* hit theaters, Mayo had already shuffled jobs and was head of production and development at Outlier Society, a production company founded by *Black Panther* star Michael B. Jordan. When Jordan first approached Mayo about the job, she admits, she had "unfairly prejudged him" as an actor seeking a vanity deal. But even when their tastes didn't overlap, she was moved by Jordan's



earnest commitment to leveraging his star power to build a more equitable, diverse Hollywood than the one he had come up in. "What I really wanted, more than anything, was to work someplace where there were shared values," she says.

Those values were soon turned outward, as well. By 2018, Outlier Society became one of the first Hollywood studios to publicly commit to "providing opportunities for individuals from underrepresented groups at all levels" from the start of a movie's production, beginning with the legal drama *Just Mercy.* Mayo had finally found a creative home that matched her priorities, and it's not hard to imagine a world where she would have stayed for many more years. But then, in 2019, MGM came calling.

Mayo certainly wasn't looking for a new job when MGM got in touch, but when she heard them out, she found the pitch hard to resist. The idea? A relaunch of Orion Pictures — the MGM division whose run of hits in the '80s and '90s included Best Picture winners *Platoon, The Silence of the Lambs* and *Dances with Wolves* — with a mandate to focus "exclusively on underrepresented voices," and Mayo as president.

Even at the best of times, moviemaking is an inexact science, which means that Hollywood studios typically decide whether they'll greenlight a movie by looking at comparable films from the recent past and determining whether they succeeded or failed at the box office. *If a similar movie, with similar stars, was a hit* — the thinking goes — *our movie is more likely to be a hit, too.* There's a fuzzy but cowardly logic to this calculus. It's also a self-fulfilling prophecy: If you've only made movies centered on cisgender white people, your historical precedents for the *new* movies you could make will nudge you toward more movies centered on cisgender white people. Hollywood has operated that way from the very beginning, and — despite a number of pioneering nonwhite filmmakers pushing back against the inequalities baked into the system — the system has proved maddeningly resistant to genuine, lasting change.

This is how a film buff like Mayo can begin an interview by rattling off the classic movies she admires — *2001, Apocalypse Now,* that seemingly bottomless pool of Hitchcock thrillers — while advocating for a cinematic future that's, in many ways, vastly different. Mayo's belief, which she's now putting into practice at Orion, is that making Hollywood more diverse isn't just the right thing to do; it's smart business at a time in which movies must appeal to an increasingly diverse and global audience.

This argument doesn't *feel* like it should require hard evidence to shift the culture at every studio in Los Angeles, but if it does, she says, the massive successes of movies like *Black Panther, Get Out* and *Moonlight* ("stories by Black filmmakers that uniquely sit in Black culture") should have been more than enough. At times, Mayo confides, she's been so frustrated by Hollywood's resistance to genuine diversity that she's considered quitting the industry altogether. "My job is to facilitate money and resources to artists," she says. "I have spent my entire career in this industry dismayed by how hard it seems to be to attach that kind of value to content made by Black people. And then you think about women. And queer people. How to get them the money and resources that they often deserve, and don't get. It has been one of the banes of my existence."

Orion's first feature, *What If?*, is currently in production. It's being directed by Billy Porter, the star of FX's *Pose,* who recently became the first openly gay Black man to win an Emmy Award. Mayo says it's "a proper coming-of-age movie" in the vein of films by director John Hughes: Kids "learning about themselves and testing boundaries and falling in love." The difference, in this case, is that the two lead characters happen to be a Persian cis boy and a Black trans girl. It's a movie that will break ground just by depicting the diversity of the actual world so matter-of-factly.

By the time she's talking about the type of movies she intends to make at Orion, Mayo is fully on a roll. "Is this something that people love so much that they want to watch it multiple times? That they want to put the poster up on their wall? That it was meaningful to their lives?" she says. The vision and enthusiasm is undeniable. You can only imagine what the film industry might look like if more studio heads approached their slate of movies with the same ethos. Hollywood would, quite literally, always have benefited from the wisdom and perspective of someone like Mayo — but now more than ever, it looks like Hollywood might actually be ready for her.

Mayo's belief is that making Hollywood more diverse isn't just the right thing to do; it's smart business at a time when movies must appeal to an increasingly diverse and global audience.

Which means, the work is just beginning. "It's going to require consistent, applied pressure, and an unwavering commitment," she says. "But the way I've always looked at it is: Look at all the work that was done prior to me, to create the position I now enjoy. If I move the needle? If *we* move the needle? It will have been time very well spent."

Scott Meslow *is a senior editor for* The Week *magazine and a writer and critic for publications including* GQ, Vulture *and* The Atlantic. *His first book,* From Hollywood With Love: The Rise and Fall (and Rise Again) of the Romantic Comedy, *will be published in February.*

The City That Never Sleeps — or Stays the Same

A historian takes a deep dive into the last four decades of New York's metamorphosis

It can sometimes seem that there's not one square foot of New York City — vertical or horizontal — that hasn't been written about. So a reader might be forgiven for wondering if there's anything new for an urban historian, no matter how talented, to say. But make room for novelist and historian **Thomas Dyja '84**'s sweeping study of Gotham's recent past, which critics have acclaimed as an "outstanding" new work that takes a fresh view of the metropolis.

New York, New York, New York: Four Decades of Success, Excess, and Transformation (Simon & Schuster, $30) covers the last 40-odd years of the city's trajectory, from 1978 to the Covid-19 pandemic. Dyja delves into the history of the last five mayoral administrations — Koch, Dinkins, Giuliani, Bloomberg and de Blasio; and tracks New York's metamorphosis from a dangerous, decaying nightscape — "that thrilling cesspool where anything could happen," Dyja memorably puts it — to a luxurious Bloombergian tourist attraction that seems to be, as one reviewer says, "wealthier, healthier, safer, greener" than ever before. Dyja's take on New York's so-called progress is both astute and nuanced: He knows that today's NYC is "flush with cash and full of poor people, diverse but deeply segregated, hopeful yet worryingly hollow underneath the shiny surface."



© EJ CAMP

New York, New York, New York's panoramic narrative is studded with colorful detail; Dyja name-checks the significant cultural and political milestones of the city's recent history, from "broken windows" policing to *Yo! MTV Raps*. The book took eight years to finish; his massive first draft was cut in half to produce the final product. Dyja compares the process of composing an intricate history to cooking a stew: "layering ideas and images, letting them cook and melt together," he told *CCT*. Over coffee in a Morningside Heights restaurant, he shared a small section of the paper timeline he used to guide his writing process; by the end, his timeline, dense with scribbled text, had grown to eight feet long.

Dyja's ambitious feat has been met with equally high-flown praise. A long rave from novelist Kevin Baker '80 landed on the cover of the March 21, 2021, *New York Times Book Review*; Baker called it "a tour de force, a work of astonishing breadth and depth." Dyja admits: "When I first saw it, I just sat with it for an hour. I didn't tell anyone, didn't call anyone. It had been such a long journey and to have this at the end was overwhelming."

New York, New York, New York isn't Dyja's first city exploration. *The Third Coast: When Chicago Built the American Dream* (which won the *Chicago Tribune*'s Heartland Prize in 2013) was a highly personal book for Dyja, who grew up in a Polish working-class neighborhood on Chicago's Northwest Side. But he feels just as close to his latest work. Dyja has spent most of his adult life in New York; he says he sees the

book as "a journey of discovery of my own past and the city's past."

His time at the College was a crucial part of that past, especially the formative English courses he took with legendary professor Edward Said, which, Dyja says, "really opened up my brain." Said and other professors, like George Stade GSAS'65, taught him "an enormous amount," including the best way to eloquently and cogently frame an argument. "This book wouldn't exist without Columbia," he says.

Dyja isn't certain what's next for him — or for the city. His book ends with the devastation of the pandemic; the heartfelt epilogue is a plea for New Yorkers to address the social and economic inequality that still smolders. "We need a New York built on a bedrock of justice, not just *noblesse oblige*," he writes. Despite this caveat, Dyja's affection for the Big Apple rings out as clearly as the words of William "Holly" Whyte, the celebrated urbanist whom he quotes in the book's epigraph, and its title. When Whyte was asked, "What are your three favorite cities?" he answered firmly: "New York, New York, New York."

— *Rose Kernochan BC'82*



Introduction

Snow again this morning — four inches, said the AccuWeather Forecast — after a foot and a half last week. Snow across the hundred acres of broken boards, mounds of brick, bent pipe, and garbage around Charlotte Street and Boston Road. Snow edged the sills of burnt-out apartment buildings, dusted shards of glass and mattresses left behind. There'd been some 63,000 fires in the South Bronx in the last two years; little point in plowing.

Today, Valentine's Day 1978, was officially "I Love New York" Day.

Jimmy Carter had visited these desolate blocks last October, made thin promises as photographers focused on a landscape hopeless as the moon. We'd given up on the moon by then, along with just about everything else. Saigon had fallen; Nixon had resigned. Three decades of economic expansion had ended with a thud. Factories were closing. A dollar bought half of what it did ten years before; the speed limit, to save gas, was now a poky 55. So as America's big, bright, exceptional promise of eternal growth blew apart, Carter had offered up Charlotte Street as a ruin so apparently complete that the rest of the failing nation could say that at least they weren't *there*.

At Southern Boulevard, 18 feet in the air, the #5 train emerged from behind a hollowed building, bubbly orange, green, red, and blue words — "Daze," "Blade," "Futura" — painted on its sides. Inside, it stunk of pot and piss; dense black scribbles over the windows and walls. Every stop along the way to Brooklyn, bundled riders winced at the graffiti, at the smell, at the parade of annoyance and threat that was daily life in New York circa 1978: track fires and dog shit, bad reception and cockroaches, that high-heeled lady upstairs with no rugs and the mugger around the next corner. "Hello from the gutters of N.Y.C.," wrote serial killer Son of Sam to the *Post*, "which are filled with dog manure, vomit, stale wine, urine and blood." In their camel hair coats, Frye boots, and shiny Yankees jackets, New Yorkers stepped over and through it all this "I Love New York" Day, shoved past mounds of uncollected garbage bags. Some 6.8 million people lived in New York City in 1978, down a million from ten years before; middle-class Blacks and Puerto Ricans had joined the White Flight. Pocked with cracks and empty corners, old New York was coming apart in chunks. A dump truck fell through the West Side Highway. Famed exorcist Malachi Martin knew for a fact that demons hunted lost souls on the benches of Bryant Park. Few New Yorkers bothered with

self-control. "People see it as bad," one young man told the *Times*, "and they feel they can't do anything about it. So they do their little bit to make it worse." Public space was yours to use as you pleased — go ahead and toss your hot dog wrapper on the sidewalk, piss between parked cars. Keepers at the Children's Zoo had stood by watching as a man molested one of their geese.

Then the change began. Over the next thirty-five years, three different New Yorks evolved in lurches; three very similar cities with much of the same DNA, but each bigger, faster, and sleeker than the one before, each one more merciless and beautiful. The Koch era was the Renaissance; after brutal Retrenchment came dazzling, greedy years that spiraled back down amid crack, AIDS, and a social gout of too much too fast. The next four years of David Dinkins left the city's liberal traditions battered but laid the foundation for the safe streets and dotcom excess of Rudy Giuliani's Reformation in the '90s. After the planes hit on 9/11 and a brief state of grace, the shaky city handed itself over to technocratic, philanthropic billionaire Michael Bloomberg, who wove City Hall into his personal empire, reimagining New York to look very much like him: visionary and strategic, driven by data and good taste, rich beyond measure, and fatally detached from those it left behind.

By New Year's Eve 2013, when Bloomberg delivered his goodbye atop a desk in City Hall, New York had experienced the most dramatic peacetime transformation of a city since Haussmann rebuilt Paris, greener and safer than it had ever been, from Bryant Park's lawn and the blocks of tidy homes across the South Bronx to the million-dollar brownstones in Bed-Stuy. Rumpelmayer's and Billy's Topless were gone, along with CBGB, subway graffiti, and that dog shit on the sidewalk. Good luck finding a place to smoke. The murder rate had dropped to a then all-time low of 333. Entire neighborhoods had been culturally, racially, economically, and physically remade; bedraggled Williamsburg was hip, Sunset Park burst with Fuzhou Chinese. Altogether some 3.6 million immigrants had come through since 1978, and 1.5 million — the entire population of Philadelphia — stayed. City Hall was solvent.

But the city of our memories, that thrilling cesspool where anything could happen, site of secret rituals officiated by Santera priests, home of dowagers on Beekman Place, refuge from everything straight and common — *that* city seemed to have slipped under a sea of gold. The rich were no longer rich; they were imperial. Chain stores devoured mom and pops. Camp had been domesticated; rage, sex, and high art defanged, rents out of reach, the NYPD an army. Hip Hop was mainstream, but the Twin Towers were nowhere to be found. Depending on your mood, your age, your bank account, New York was now horrifying, or wonderful, and even that changed day-to-day, moment-to-moment.



TERESA ZABALA / *THE NEW YORK TIMES*

President Carter visits a desolate stretch of the South Bronx in October 1977.

That was the fall of 2013, when I started this book, angry at the closing of Big Nick's, a pretty lousy burger place and longtime symbol of the free-for-all character of the Upper West Side I'd moved to back in 1980. The election of progressive Bill de Blasio had surely signaled the end of an era; it was time, I thought, to sort through the facts of those years and get to the bottom of this slimy feeling I had that while so much had gone right in New York, way too much had gone wrong. Everyone had their opinions about what had happened: Some saw only villains and victims, used terms like Neoliberalism, Quality of Life, Broken Windows, and Gentrification with little sense of their original meanings, context, or applications; others told rose-colored stories about Giuliani's cops cleaning up Dodge and Bloomberg's enlightened reign, ignoring the profound damage done to the city and its people. Either way, four complex decades were reduced to a morality play. I wanted to get down to the actual ideas, policies, and technologies behind it all. What was the process? Who were the people?

As I researched and wrote over the next seven years, some things about the city and the world changed in remarkable ways — Donald Trump, for example, whom I'd originally seen as a bit of side comedy occasionally bursting in the door with a wacky catchphrase, became president of the United States. In other ways, the city stayed tragically the same.

Then, in a matter of days Covid-19 thrust New York back to the dark, empty streets of our memories, but this time no one was allowed to wander them. A city fueled by the energy of density, the pressure, the motion, the countless daily face-to-face interactions was suddenly frozen, and we sat helplessly listening to the sirens that never stopped. Some 17,000 New Yorkers died over three months, six times as many as died on 9/11. Hundreds of thousands lost their jobs. And then a White woman in the Central Park Ramble threatened to call the police on an African American birdwatcher, George Floyd was murdered by cops in Minneapolis, and the streets of New York burst into violent protest along with other American cities.

We no longer have the luxury of dogma, assumptions, and unexamined opinions about New York, not from any side of the many divides that separate us in this city. A fourth evolution of New York is clearly imminent; economics, public health, and social justice demand it. And that makes it crucial to learn the practical lessons of its earlier transformations. Covid has revealed cities, as nothing ever has, to be organisms built of countless intricate networks that exist to facilitate human exchange; their general health, maintenance, and momentum, their need to stay afloat through whatever hits them, transcends politics and sometimes, sadly, individual need. For us to learn anything from how New York became at once kinder and meaner, richer and poorer, more like America and less like what it had always been, we need a fine-grained look at how New Yorkers, public and private, created new methods of urban living that together saved the city, then in too many places overwhelmed it. We must confront the bitter fact that the things that brought New York back — connection, proximity,

density — are exactly what sent Covid-19 burning through its streets, that too much that was objectively "good" depended on casting off, pushing aside, building upon, chewing up, and spitting out New Yorkers simply trying to make their own lives. And we must understand that the greatest challenge we will face is one that New York failed badly in its last three evolutions: the cure can't be worse than the disease.

Seven main themes weave through this book and point to the future: how City Hall made an ungovernable city governable; how the one Great Conversation of New York culture broke apart; how AIDS transformed Gay New York and the city as a whole; how the built landscape and public space were fundamental to new growth and community while also creating inequality and new forms of control; how millions of immigrants stabilized and globalized the city even as its People of Color confronted diminished power, dislocation, and brutality; the impact of technology on nearly every aspect of life in New York; and finally, the rise of Brooklyn as an expansion of the city's consciousness of itself.

All these themes hang on the deeper structures of how people connect in cities. New York's passage through Renaissance, Reformation, and Reimagination was really a shift from mass society to networks. Until the '70s, political scientists described New York as a game played by all its interests with City Hall as the referee. But as Information took over from Industry, the collective world of unions, borough machines, the archdiocese, and even the Mob gradually gave way to one of individuals who define themselves primarily by the networks they belong to. The gameboard became what I imagine as a galaxy of 8½ million lives connected to each other in ways beyond counting: those with the most connections — and therefore the most access to favors, advice, job tips, and string pulling — shone the brightest, and the reconnection and reorganization of New Yorkers sent new tastes, ideas, resources, and behaviors coursing through every borough, unleashing financial, human, and social capital. Like a giant brain, the more connections, the more synapses ring, the higher functioning New York became. Those without wide connections, or with none at all, were left behind.

But social capital isn't an unqualified good; a street gang can produce just as much as a congregation, and the same kinds of connections that catalyzed the response to AIDS and spread Hip Hop also produced toxic levels of social capital in Wall Street, Nouvelle Society, and post-gentrification PTAs, until, by the end of the Bloomberg years, New York was one vast web of business, government, philanthropy, and culture that exemplified the best and worst of a networked world. "[T]he larger the web gets," writes historian William McNeill, "the more wealth, power, and inequality its participating populations exhibit." And the more vulnerable it is to any sort of contagion, including a very nonmetaphorical virus.

The energy released by all this breaking and building of new connections, the movement between Order and Disorder, is the catalyst of urban life, the human fission that fuels a city. Though much visible effort goes into preserving Order, cities, especially democratic capitalist ones, thrive on the energies and possibilities of toggling back and forth, so how New York manages and manipulates Order and Disorder explains much of what happens during these years. Deregulation of markets, for example, creates profits by creating Disorder to speculate on; the Mob made money by enforcing Order on the Disorder of places like the Garment District and Fulton Fish Market. Hip Hop came to life out of Disorder and then became an Orderly thing, while Koch's Housing Initiative helped create Order



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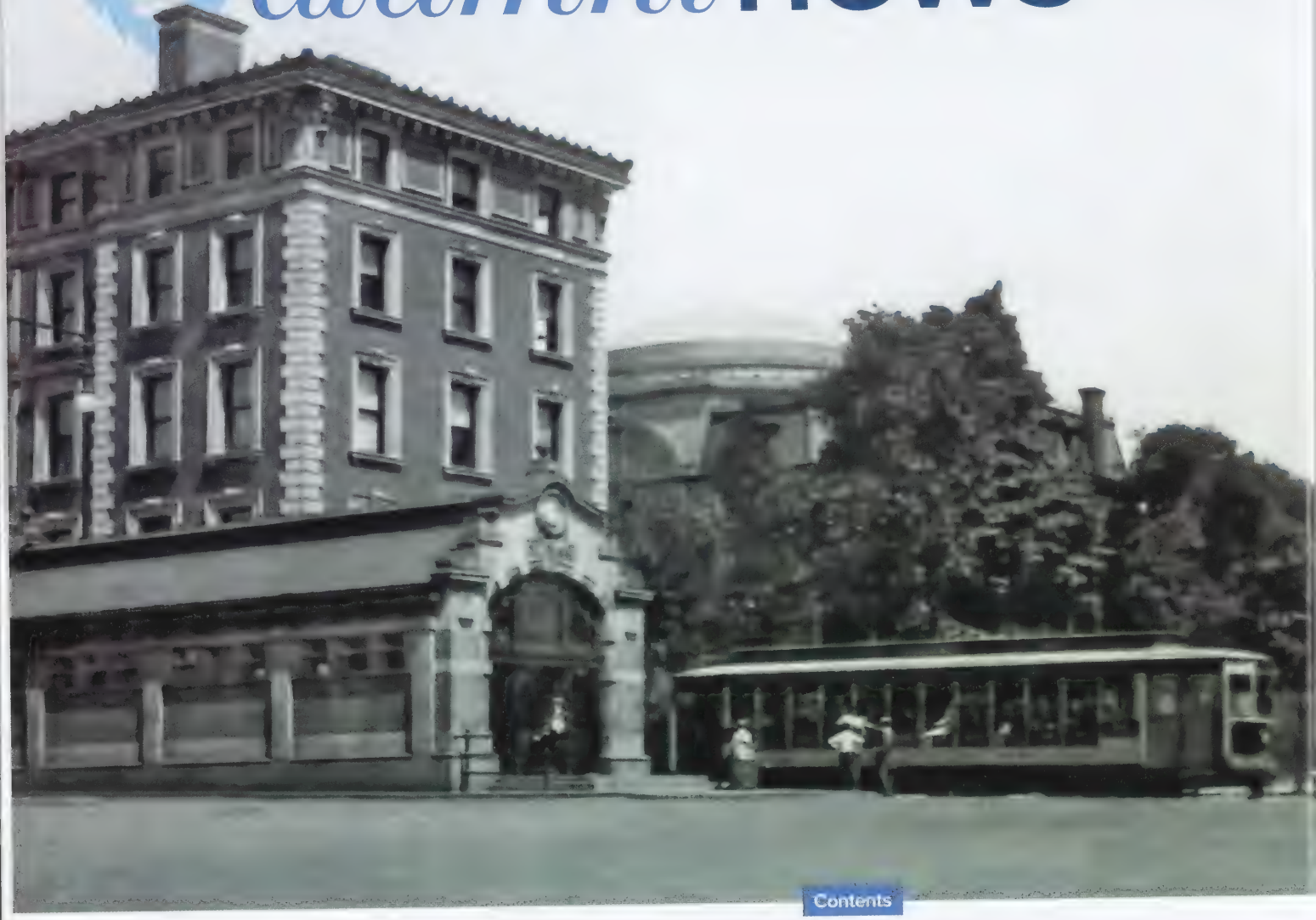
Activists at the 47th Gay Pride Parade marching in Midtown in June 2017.

in neighborhoods. The most familiar example — enforcing Order in the streets and parks — touches the troubling knot at the core of the city's transformation: Using Order to facilitate exchange between people wasn't the same as using it to enforce oppressive, if familiar, norms about sex, race, and class. And a city without Disorder, or at least *public* Disorder, is barely a city at all.

That brings us to *Who*. Over these thirty-five years, the greatest changes were the work of New Yorkers obsessed in their own individual ways with fixing, changing, building, saving, serving the city more than their political party, social ties, or corporate affiliation. Even when it was a fig leaf for their own agendas, you still find possibility, identity, history, justice, and a sense of Home — a search for actual results, not just votes or dollars. Elizabeth Barlow Rogers was obsessed with Central Park, just as Marcy Benstock was obsessed with stopping Westway, Larry Kramer was obsessed with fighting AIDS, Jack Maple was obsessed with crime, and Reverend Johnny Ray Youngblood was obsessed with affordable housing. Everyday New Yorkers rebuilt communities by rebuilding their connections to government and to each other. What happened in these years didn't just happen *to* New York; its people had agency. Not all the time and not nearly enough, but when people connected in practical, humane ways, when they participated in urban life, sometimes — many times — they found sweet spots that balanced the networks of power and money, that made us love the place even as we hated what it was becoming. Instead of standing by and watching Jane Jacobs's street ballet, they jumped in and danced. New Yorkers rediscovered trust which, deserved or not, offered hope even as they despaired at what was lost. The greatest lesson of these thirty-five years is that keeping a city fertile demands the active, daily participation of its citizens.

From the book NEW YORK, NEW YORK, NEW YORK: Four Decades of Success, Excess, and Transformation by Thomas Dyja. Copyright © 2021 by Kelmscott Ink, Inc. Reprinted by permission of Simon & Schuster, Inc.

alumni news



NOW ARRIVING: 116TH STREET

While Columbians today may travel to campus in a different kind of car — and often underground — the view of campus is not much different than when the Broadway Trolley rolled past in 1911.

ARTHUR W. THOMAS SEAS 1912, GSAS 1915 / COURTESY ARTHUR L. THOMAS '50

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Two alumni were immortalized on canvas by their mother, painter Alice Neel.

A Community Comes Together Again

By Ted Schweitzer '91, LAW'94

As I write this letter, Columbia College is preparing to welcome many of its students back to campus for a long-anticipated return. The Columbia College Alumni Association (CCAA) applauds the work done by the College and the University in navigating a course that has valued the safety of its faculty and students above all other considerations. While we suspect Covid-19 and its variants will be with us for years to come, we hope never to return to such a severe lockdown and remote life.

With the start of the new academic year, we remind ourselves of the CCAA's mission to further the vibrancy of the College and forge meaningful connections among alumni. Thousands of alumni volunteer time and give generously to support the dean's priorities. This steady commitment fuels the University and is part of what enables it to provide the very best to all students, who then go forth and change the world.

The CCAA is particularly proud of the strong alumni support of the Columbia College Fund during the past year. Thanks to these groups for the fundraising success: (1) our donors, (2) our alumni volunteers and (3) the unstoppable staff at the Dean's Office and the Alumni Office. The financial support provided by the College Fund is essential to students, the majority of whom benefit from financial aid.

Relatedly, a few months ago Dean James J. Valentini announced the College is joining the University-wide effort made public by President Lee C. Bollinger to launch the largest financial aid initiative in our history. As a community, we are committed to raising $500 million in financial assistance by 2025, which will significantly expand the scholarships that ensure that any student can attend and thrive at the College, regardless of family income. As the dean stated, the commitment to financial aid is inspired by its triple impact: It can change the student, the College and the world. As president of the CCAA, I am enthusiastic about this initiative and excited for our community to learn more in the months ahead.



JENNA BASCOM PHOTOGRAPHY

During the pandemic's worst, and even now, the College community stayed in touch and came together through virtual programming, most of which was created in response to Covid. Multiple outlets flourished, including speaker series and literary fora. I was fortunate to participate in many of these virtual assemblies and admired the quality of the offerings. It has been said that "necessity is the mother of invention." But there were other aspects at play aside from rallying at a time of need. Indeed, we were reminded of the phrase "cometh the hour, cometh the man [and woman!]." It was humbling for us to see the outpouring of energy and enthusiasm from our alumni community during the last year and a half. Volunteers gave that much more in whatever capacity they could.

As we look ahead to a new year, we'll retain some virtual programming. Planning is also underway for our annual events and traditions, including Homecoming and Columbia Reunion. Look for more information as these milestones approach.

On another note, we are thrilled to welcome nine new CCAA Board of Directors members to their initial two-year term, which began on July 1. These alumni have been stalwart in their support of the College, and we are pleased to have such an interesting and dedicated group. They live as close as the Upper West Side and as far as São Paulo.

- Uchenna Acholonu Jr. '96
- Armond Adams '06
- Nihara Choudhri '96, LAW'99
- Michael Lee '96
- Diana Nasser '87
- Heather Ruddock '88
- Khadijah Sharif-Drinkard '93
- Matthew Sodl '88
- Zahrah Taufique '09, BUS'15, PS'15

There are myriad ways to get involved with Columbia, and I encourage you to seek them out (college.columbia.edu/alumni). We are particularly excited about Homecoming, scheduled for Saturday, October 16. We hope to see you in the weeks and months ahead!





Guevara (center) rings the closing bell at the New York Stock Exchange in January 2020.

COURTESY BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF NEW YORK CITY

Alicia Guevara '94 Believes That Mentorship Is Meaningful

By Jill C. Shomer

Alicia Guevara '94 is one of those fortunate people who has felt a calling in life — in her case, to be in the service of young people. After a 25-year career as a fundraiser in the nonprofit sector, bringing in millions of dollars for organizations such as The Osborne Association and the Abyssinian Development Corp., Guevara is currently fulfilling her personal mission as the CEO of Big Brothers Big Sisters of New York City (BBBS), whose aim is to help young people reach their full potential through mentoring relationships. Matches are made between caring adult volunteers and children across the five boroughs, and are inclusive of guardians and families.

"I was a young person with a really strong family network who also benefited tremendously from the contributions of others. I know what's possible when we invest in our youth," she says. "I have committed my life to creating access to opportunities and to making room for others."

Guevara is proud to be the first CEO in the organization's 117-year history who identifies as a woman and as a woman of color. "It's important to me that 89 percent of the participants we serve, who are young people of color, see me not solely for my accomplishments, but as a representation of their own possibilities."

A major component of Guevara's work at BBBS is amplifying the idea that mentoring is essential, and helping people understand the impact it has on young people and communities as a whole. "Mentoring creates access to social capital and opportunities — especially now, as New York City begins to reenvision its future. It's

definitely important to invest in our next set of leaders, in our next workforce, in our next corps of decision makers and influencers."

The work of mentoring never stopped during the pandemic. "Bigs" and "Littles" usually meet in the community twice a month; instead they FaceTimed, played video games, created TikToks, did homework together virtually. "Our Bigs were telling us that pre-pandemic, they were reaching out to their Littles; this time around, it was the Littles who were initiating contact," Guevara says. "They were mutually connecting."

Guevara knows firsthand how empowering a connected community can be. She grew up in the Fordham section of the Bronx, the first generation of Cuban immigrants. Her mom was a "modern-day grassroots activist," Guevara says; "she took care of her community, and she instilled that sense of responsibility in me." In the midst of the 1980s crack epidemic, Guevara saw friends being torn apart from their parents because of addiction. "But ours was the household that always had a cup of milk to offer, a plate of rice. We provided a safe haven for the kids in our neighborhood," she says.

Guevara embraced the expectation that she would succeed. "There was a lot of hope placed in me — not just from my immediate family but also from a whole neighborhood that was really banking on me. It was incredibly affirming during my adolescence," she says. Her mother believed that a good education was paramount, and Guevara left the Bronx every day to travel to The Marymount School, an independent Catholic academy on Fifth Avenue. "That's when I really came to understand the haves and the have-nots, and the schism between the two," Guevara says. "With the opportunities I was given, I realized I had some important choices to make about responsibility. And Columbia was really the first place I got to exercise those choices."

Guevara honed in on creating communities on campus, organizing and addressing issues of social justice at a time when that phrase wasn't so buzzy. In her sophomore year, she was the president of Alianza Latino Americana, a now-defunct umbrella group for Latinx students, and was an active member of the Black Students Organization. She also co-founded two student groups serving members of the first decade of Latinx College women. "We recognized there wasn't a social, cultural response to sisterhood as we were experiencing it. We said, 'We'd better do something about it.'

"There's great power that comes from community building," she adds. "I'm a firm believer that there's a tremendous amount of energy and potential for transformative change that comes with locking arms and doing the work."

She majored in political science and history, and thought she would become an attorney. But after landing an internship at the Hispanic Federation of New York City, which she had randomly seen advertised on a flier outside the Dean's Office, Guevara found her launching pad into the nonprofit world. At the Hispanic Federation she learned to write grants and began her decades-long role as a fundraiser. "The entire course of your career can unroll from one small encounter," she says with a laugh. "Thirty years later, I'm still asking for money from the City of New York!"

Guevara has maintained ties to Columbia; she earned an Executive Leaders certificate from the Business School in 2014, and was recently appointed to the 2021–22 Board of Visitors. "To me it speaks to the College's commitment to create a sense of belonging for its alumni," she says. "As a student, I didn't have any role models who worked in the nonprofit sector. My appointment affirms the spectrum of professions, careers and lived experiences that are valuable to the College."

Guevara says she's inspired by the commitment Columbia has demonstrated to building trusting connections for its students and she is motivated, now more than ever, by the impact of youth mentoring relationships created within BBBS. "The pandemic has really put a spotlight on the need for social connectedness," she says. "And that's what mentorship does — it's a relationship that safely grounds you."

Marianna Wright '91 Is "the Butterfly That Roared"

By George Spencer

Some people are social butterflies. **Marianna Wright '91,** executive director of the National Butterfly Center (NBC), uses butterflies for social justice.

More than 240 species flutter in the center's 100-acre gardens, located a mile from the Rio Grande in Mission, Texas, at the state's southern tip. As many as 200,000 butterflies, notably migrating Monarchs, have been seen at the center in one day. For nine years Wright has made it her mission to educate NBC's 35,000 annual visitors not just about butterfly mating habits ("It could be a four-hour experience with a nap and flying conjoined!" she says) but also about climate change and environmental justice issues.

While bees may be the better-known pollinators, butterflies do their fair share — but global warming, commercial pesticide use and habitat destruction have been steadily eroding their numbers. "We're going to have to be tough to defend our planet and the things that support human life, if we want to survive," says Wright, a history major who headed fundraising and donor development at a local nonprofit hospital before joining the NBC. "We have a motto at the National Butterfly Center — 'If we can save the butterflies, we can save ourselves' — and it's really that simple."

Wright believes that engaging Hispanic visitors in environmental conservation education and climate change activism is "critical work" — especially for students. "For people of color, the outdoors is traditionally associated with danger and fear," Wright says. "There's a stigma associated with enjoying the outdoors. That's something we need to change."

The center, which also boasts 350 bird species as well as endangered plants and wildlife, annually hosts more than 100 school field trips, which largely comprise Hispanic students. "These children are often loaded with baggage from the legacies of immigration,

migrant and other farm work, and colonizer settlement of this region, all of which involve terrorism," Wright says. "The work we do — sharing our wonder, knowledge and skill — gives children and families a safe start outside and the confidence to navigate nature. The healing has to start with helping them fall in love with the beauty and magic of butterflies."

Wright has dual U.S.-Mexican citizenship and grew up in McAllen, Texas; she remembers watching restaurants refuse to seat her Hispanic father. "I began experiencing racism at a very early age. I have very little tolerance for injustice, and it is something that unfortunately is abundant," says Wright. "The South had Jim Crow. In Texas, we had Juan Crow."

Her parents wanted her to leave Texas for college. They knew she loved the state so much she was likely to spend her life there, and thought she needed to see some of the rest of the country first. UC Berkeley was Wright's first choice. Her father said to her, "You cannot go to school in California because they smoke dope there." She remembers thinking, "Dad, have you heard of Allen Ginsberg ['48]?"



VERÓNICA G. CÁRDENAS

Wright and the butterfly preserve became a hot spot in national politics in July 2017. As she drove her black Honda into the sanctuary and down a steep embankment, she spotted five workmen on the property using chainsaws, a brush hog and a brush boom to mow vegetation and chop down mesquite trees.

The men told the astonished Wright they were clearing land for the construction of the Trump administration's border wall, even though this was months before a congressional vote of authorization. Had it been built, the wall would have cut nearly through the middle of the Butterfly Center.

Today, after four years of struggle, Wright calls herself "the butterfly that roared." The NBC's lawsuit against the federal government for violating its procedures and taking property without compensation is wending its way to trial. In the interim, former Trump advisor Steve Bannon and his business associates built a wall adjacent to the NBC and alleged that Wright and the center were involved in "human trafficking" and "drug smuggling." She is suing him for defamation.

Wright worries the new administration will confiscate the same land for a patrol road as part of a "border wall system." "Biden has not raised a hand against us, not yet anyway," says Wright. "I am cautiously concerned. It's still the government."

During the furor over the proposed border wall, the Butterfly Center found itself the recipient of a nearby 350 acres, a gift from The Nature Conservancy. While Wright is "thrilled" by the donation, she says it couldn't possibly make up for the wholesale negative impact of a wall in the Rio Grande Valley conservation corridor. "It doesn't even begin to address it," she says.

George Spencer *is the former executive editor of* Dartmouth Alumni Magazine. *He lives in Hillsborough, N.C.*

A Pioneer in the Field of Gay History

By Eugene L. Meyer '64

A cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the College with a newly acquired doctorate in history from the University, **John D'Emilio '70, GSAS'82** eagerly applied for teaching jobs in academia in the early 1980s. But his dissertation subject — the history of gay activism — was unheard of then, and he faced a wall of rejection from dozens of institutions where he'd sought employment.

Times have changed. Forty years later, D'Emilio is regarded not only as a leader in the field of gay history but also as a rock star at the University of Illinois at Chicago who has won numerous awards and honors, including a dissertation prize bearing his name.

"He was absolutely a pioneer," says Estelle Freedman BC'69, the Edgar E. Robinson Professor in U.S. History at Stanford, with whom D'Emilio collaborated on the 1988 bestseller *Intimate Matters: A History of Sexuality in America,* now in its third edition. "His work has been incredibly important and influential."

D'Emilio has won wide recognition: He was inducted into the Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame in 2005, has been a Guggenheim fellow and is the author of several more books. His 2003 biography of gay civil rights leader Bayard Rustin earned wide acclaim; a memoir, *Memories of a Gay Catholic Boyhood: Coming of Age in the Sixties,* is due out next fall.

His rise to prominence was hardly meteoric — it was a struggle against a homophobic society not yet ready to accept nonconforming sexuality as an academic field. D'Emilio was born to working-class Italian immigrants in the Bronx, and raised in the Catholic

church. He attended Regis H.S., an elite Catholic boys' school in Manhattan, on scholarship. (Dr. Anthony S. Fauci, chief medical advisor to President Biden, is also an alumnus.)

Once on campus, D'Emilio moved into a John Jay Hall single. For a teen grappling with his emerging gay identity, New York City seemed to offer a relatively safe space, but he was still closeted. He was, he says, "coming to grips with being gay at a time when it was impossible to be gay"; he was also involved in the antiwar movement. Needing a break from academia, D'Emilio landed in the library of Long Island University, reading radical publications and heading in a new direction.

"What I was learning through them was a revisionist view of U.S. history, consistent with what the antiwar movement was shouting at demonstrations," he says, "and I realized I'd never taken a U.S. history course."

So, back he went to Columbia. He had an idea for a doctoral dissertation on a subject of great personal interest, and brought the topic — the history of homosexuality in America — to his advisor, historian William Leuchtenburg GSAS'51. D'Emilio still recalls his wry response: 'John, I think you need to narrow your topic somewhat. You have an area, not a topic.'"

D'Emilio focused on the history of gay activism from 1940 to 1970. His dissertation would become his first book, *Sexual Politics, Sexual Communities,* in 1983.

Though he'd begun graduate school in 1971, D'Emilio didn't get his doctorate until 1982. Even then, supporting himself with several freelance jobs, he saw his future in writing. But eventually, he applied for teaching positions with an emphasis on gay history.

"I had recommendations, publications, a book under contract. But in the early '80s, what the hell is gay history? No one was teaching it," he says. D'Emilio finally landed at the University of North Carolina Greensboro in 1983 and stayed until 1995. He left to found and chair the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's Policy Institute, and, in 1999, the University of Illinois at Chicago came calling.

Since 2014, D'Emilio has been emeritus professor of history and women's and gender studies, but still speaks and writes about gay history. His most recent work, *Queer Legacies: Stories from Chicago's LGBTQ Archives,* was published in 2020.



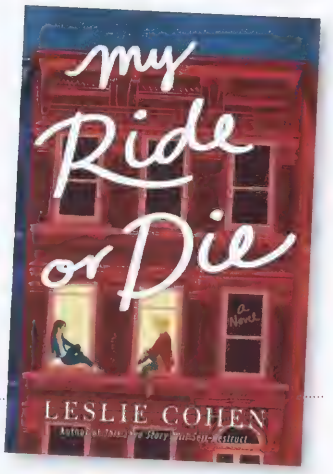
COURTESY JOHN D'EMILIO '70, GSAS'82

"I've retired in the sense that I don't have to go to faculty meetings, prepare syllabi, and grade papers and exams, but I still get to do research and writing," he says. Composing his memoir, however, has been a new and different experience: "It's so weird to be publishing a book about me instead of about something else."

Eugene L. Meyer '64 *is a former longtime* Washington Post *reporter and editor and author, most recently, of* Five for Freedom: The African American Soldiers in John Brown's Army.

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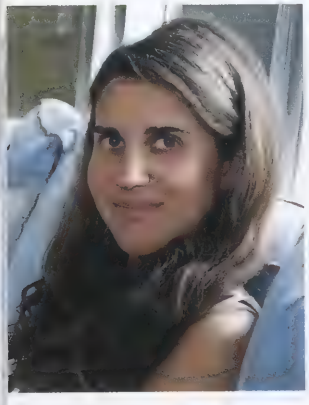


A New Novel That Celebrates BFFs

By Jill C. Shomer

Novelist **Leslie Cohen '06** has been described as "a young Nora Ephron," an impressive analogy that might imply publishing doors swung open easily for her. But Cohen's career path was a lot more unusual, and much less assured. She was a mountain-town music writer before deciding to attend law school, then wrote a handful of novels that went nowhere before she was finally published in 2018. Her debut, *This Love Story Will Self-Destruct,* is a classic New York romantic comedy; in the first chapter, Eve, an arty dreamer, and Ben, an orderly engineer, meet cute as students at Columbia.

Now more confidently through the door, Cohen decided to change things up for her sophomore novel. Her latest, *My Ride or Die* (William Morrow, $16.99), puts female friendship at the forefront, telling the relationship story of two millennial New Yorkers: Amanda, a successful but anxious lawyer, and Sophie, gorgeous and more free-spirited, but struggling to find her way as an artist.



After two romantic disasters — Sophie calls off her wedding minutes before walking down the aisle, and Amanda learns that her boss/boyfriend is most definitely *not* divorced — the friends decide to flip the script and forge a new partnership ideal: They will commit their lives to each other and relegate men to the periphery. The pair buy a fixer-upper on Convent Avenue and start a blissful platonic life together, and while you just know one of them is about to fall in love, the genuine humor and relatability of their friendship and Cohen's knack for spot-on cultural detail keep the pages turning.

"I felt more secure taking risks with this book," she says. "I could be a little zanier and use a voice I felt more confident about. I could step into my own shoes more."

Cohen says she sees some of herself in both her main characters (I was not the first to ask, tritely: "Are you an Amanda or a Sophie?"), but she clearly shares some qualities with Sophie, who yearns to be a painter but is desperate for affirmation and professional guidance. A New York native, Cohen was an English major and in the Undergraduate Creative Writing Program; she wanted to be a writer, but she didn't know if she was good enough. One professor in particular helped her find her conviction — Leslie Woodard GS'94, then head of the program. Woodard, who died in 2013, told her she had a unique voice. "She had so many students, so [her validation] was a really big deal," Cohen says. "I owe a lot to her. Especially as a 21-year-old, you really need someone to tell you they see potential in you."

Intimidated by the competition for writing jobs in New York and also seeking adventure, Cohen spent a year in Aspen, Colo., writing a music column for the local newspaper and as an assistant editor at one of the village's luxe glossies. "It was a year where I grew a lot, personally and professionally," Cohen says.

But a year in a small town was enough. When she returned to New York, the competition for writing jobs was still fierce, and Cohen quickly felt lost. She decided to change direction and went to law school, which she now admits was a mistake. But sometimes clarifying what you absolutely do not want to do helps to shine a light on your true passion — soon after taking the bar, Cohen was applying for jobs at literary agencies.

She eventually landed at Writers House. "I could have kissed the ground every day, I was so happy I wasn't working at a law firm," she says. "It gave me a huge appreciation for the publishing world." (Amusingly, her first book included five characters who are associates at a law firm.)

Cohen is now at work on her third novel (albeit slowly — she and her husband, David Verbitsky SEAS'06, have a 3-year-old daughter and she is seven months pregnant with their second child). "It takes place in the south of France, mostly for selfish reasons because I'd like to go there," she laughs. "But also, who doesn't want to read a novel set in the south of France?"

By the end of *My Ride or Die,* both young women are creating meaningful lives in their own ways; the author is also happy that despite her circuitous journey, she is now where she always wanted to be. "I was meant to write fiction," Cohen says. "I'm lucky I've been able to make that work, and I feel grateful all the time."



Once Upon a Time in Aleppo *by Fouad M. Fouad, translated by Dr. Norbert Hirschhorn '58.* The poems of a Syrian physician and refugee are translated from Arabic by Hirschhorn, a poet and physician who specializes in international public health (The Hippocrates Press).

Afro-South Asia in the Global African Diaspora *edited by Dr. Kenneth X. Robbins '63, Omar H. Ali, Beheroze Shroff and Jazmin Graves.* Over three volumes, contributors including historians, anthropologists, linguists and art historians discuss the influence of South Asia on Africans and people of African descent (independently published, $49.99 per volume).

Until We Meet Again: An American Woman and Her Family in Civil War China *by Marshall S. Clough '67.* The story of Clough's mother, Mary Lou Sander Clough, who died in Shanghai in 1950 while her husband, Ralph, a Foreign Service Officer, was trying to get his family out of Communist China (independently published).

The Passport as Home: Comfort by Ruthlessness *by Andrei Markovits '69.* Markovits's memoir includes a chapter about the College, as well as a panorama of key events that shaped the second half of the 20th century (Central European University Press, $22.95).

Shooting *Midnight Cowboy*: Art, Sex, Loneliness, Liberation, and the Making of a Dark Classic *by Glenn Frankel '71.* Frankel, a Pulitzer Prize–winning journalist, considers the controversial 1969 Academy Award–winning film (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, $30).

Leonardo's Salvator Mundi and the Collecting of Leonardo in the Stuart Courts *by Robert B. Simon '73, Martin Kemp and Margaret Dalivalle.* The authors detail the discovery of *Salvator Mundi*, a painting attributed to da Vinci, and examine evidence that the work was included in 16th-century royal collections (Oxford University Press, $40).

Landslide: The Final Days of the Trump White House *by Michael Wolff '75.* Wolff, the author of several books about the Trump administration, details the last year of Trump's presidency (Henry Holt and Co., $29.99).

Fatal Infraction: A Mike Stoneman Thriller *by Kevin Chapman '83.* In the fourth book of the series, detective Stoneman and his partner, Jason Dickson, investigate the murder of a controversial NFL quarterback (independently published, $29.99).

It's Not All About You: The Secret Joy of Practical Humility *by Daniel A. Cohen '84.* This audiobook offers simple, easy paths to a happier life, addressing the lack of humility in our society that can affect our mental health (Findaway Voices, $19.95).

City at the Edge of Forever: Los Angeles Revisited *by Peter Lunenfeld '84.* In this urban portrait, Lunenfeld, a professor and vice-chair of UCLA's design media arts department, describes how L.A. went from a dusty frontier town to a global super city (Viking, $28).

American Schism: How the Two Enlightenments Hold the Secret for Healing Our Nation *by Seth David Radwell '85.* Radwell looks back to our nation's founding to provide a distinctive perspective on the recent corrosion of American civic life (Greenleaf Book Group Press, $25.95).

Chasing the Truth: A Young Journalist's Guide to Investigative Reporting *by Jodi Kantor '96 and Megan Twohey.* A young reader's adaptation of Kantor and Twohey's bestseller *She Said: Breaking the Sexual Harassment Story That Helped Ignite a Movement,* which will inspire a new generation of investigative journalists (Philomel Books, $17.99).

As If She Were Free: A Collective Biography of Women and Emancipation in the Americas *edited by Tatiana Seijas '95, Erica L. Ball and Terri L. Snyder.* Biographies of 24 women of African descent reveal how enslaved and recently freed women sought and found freedom in the 16th–19th centuries (Cambridge University Press, $29.99).

No One Succeeds Alone: Learn Everything You Can from Everyone You Can *by Robert Reffkin '00.* The Compass CEO distills the wisdom he's gathered along his professional journey to help readers realize their full potential (Mariner Books, $27).

Cool for America: Stories *by Andrew Martin '08.* Martin expands on characters from his hilarious debut novel, *Early Work*, in this collection of overlapping stories about artistic ambition and achievement (Picador Paper, $17).

Other People's Comfort Keeps Me Up at Night *by Morgan Parker '10.* A reprint of the debut collection that launched the career of one of America's most important young poets (Tin House Books, $16.95).

—Jill C. Shomer

SUBMIT YOUR BOOK TO CCT

Alums! Have you written a book in the last year? Tell us about it!

college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_bookshelf

classnotes



JENNA BASCOM PHOTOGRAPHY

Columbia's crown — symbolizing the former King's College — has been a beacon of learning for centuries.

1940s

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

Dr. **Martin L. Beller '44,** PS'46 writes: "This is my final goodbye to Columbia. I lost my beloved wife, Wilma, in 2020 after 72 years of marriage. We retired to her hometown of Gaines, Pa., in 1987 after a long and successful career as an orthopedic surgeon in Philadelphia. I have three children, 13 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. I have enjoyed good health. Columbia College and P&S were lifelong educational experiences."

Thank you so much to Martin for writing in. *CCT* and your classmates would enjoy hearing from you, too. You also are welcome to share news of your career, retirement and/or family, as well as a favorite story or memory from your days on Morningside Heights.

Please send an email to cct@columbia.edu, or use the online Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note, and your thoughts will be shared in a future issue. Enjoy the fall!

1950

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

CCT reached out to the class and heard from three alumni. Thank you to these gentlemen for writing in. Please share your news with us via the above email address. Enjoy the fall!

David Berger writes: "*CCT* asked for news on career and retirement. Columbia contributed to both.

"Career: I was well grounded at Columbia for making research useful, but my major contribution through the decades in our U.S. offices and overseas was actually as the team leader of 30 research directors in 20 countries. For that I credit baseball, football and basketball teammates and coaches John Balquist CC 1932, Phil Bucklew SIPA'48, Jim Moore and Lou Rossini TC'47.

"Retirement: I'm the major cook and kitchen man at home and have been since I retired in 1987. My experience handling dirty dishes in the Johnson Hall cafeteria as an undergraduate informs what I do now every day."

Michael Loeb says: "It's been a lucky life. Married to Ann for 65 years, three children (each married for more than 25 years), nine grandchildren (two married), one great-grandchild. All healthy and happy. Sorry to have missed our 70th reunion."

And from **Arthur Dayton Trezise:** "In August 1950 many friends from Barnard and Columbia boarded the chartered (and decrepit) *S.S. Liguria* in Hoboken bound for Europe. The $600 package covered everything and was organized by many live-wires in the national Newman Club organization. All told, a thoroughly satisfying experience that also created and nourished lifetime friendships. The draft marked my return with the reactivation of the 4th Infantry Division and shipment out to post-war Frankfurt, never mastering German but did ski on 2-meter wooden boards.

"Starting to work in 1952 at the American Can Co.'s yearlong training program in Jersey City, I ended up running its subsidiary in São Paulo in 1968 until Canco/Dixie left Brazil. By then I had married Maria Lúcia Bezerra and we had three young ones. We decided to stay in Brazil. We had some ups and downs: running a smaller metals company, translations, teaching English and then [becoming] president of a larger impact extrusion company. Having passed all the U.S. Foreign Service exams earlier, I accepted a posting in São Paulo as the commercial attaché, followed by three years in Bogotá and then in Paris as commercial counsellor until retirement in 1994.

"Fortunately, we have had a mountain aerie base at the Mad River Glen ski area in Vermont since 1966: a cedar pre-cut log dwelling where one can bush-whack through some woods, skiing down to the lift line. Whenever possible we repaired here. At 93 and alone now, few classmates remain but I try to keep in touch with **Bob Socas** and Bill Dowd '49's widow, Pat Curran Dowd BC'50."

Class Notes are submitted by alumni and edited by volunteer class correspondents and the staff of CCT prior to publication. Opinions expressed are those of individual alumni and do not reflect the opinions of CCT, its class correspondents, the College or the University. By submitting to Class Notes, you acknowledge that the text is eligible to appear in print as well as on CCT Online and in archives.

1951

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

CCT reached out to the class and heard from two alumni. Thank you to these gentlemen for writing in. Please share your news with us via the above email. Have a pleasant fall!

Herman Bieber SEAS'62 writes, "Except for some balance problems due to severe neuropathy in hands and feet, I am still chugging along at 91. For safety, I abandoned my canes for a rollator. So no more driving, and only essential travel in the outside world.

"Recent times were occupied with coping with the pandemic by 'staying safe.' My senior residence, Lantern Hill, has done an amazing job minimizing infection in both residents and service personnel. But following masking, distancing and other safeguards meant a great reduction in my usually plentiful social activities.

"But all residents here received early vaccination, and pool/gym have reopened, as well as all social activities. And thanks to Zoom, I now 'meet' with my scattered family weekly, which is much more often than I used to visit with them before the pandemic.

"I also zoomed the 70th class reunion, but it was sad to see that so few were still with us or able to actively participate.

"Finally, I still spend much time reading the technical literature, and consulting on environmental problem like global warming."

Peter H. Schiff "finally retired as a lawyer in spring 2020."

1952

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

CCT reached out to the class and heard from **Joseph Di Palma,** who shares: "On a happy note, my wife of more than 50 years, Joycelyn Engle, and I enjoyed a relaxing trip to Palm Beach in March, and my younger daughter, Julianne Michelle SW'17, who has a master's from Columbia, is filming another TV series, *Little Cupid.* Her character name is 'Chloe Taylor.' This makes about 34 movies and TV shows in which she has starred.

"On a very disturbing note, my family and I are fighting the biggest battle of our lives over the custody of my grandchild, whom we helped raise, with malfeasance of certain lawyers in New York County Family Court. We haven't seen my grandchild, who misses us so much, in more than six months as of June. My daughter, my wife and I are extremely upset over this.

"My best wishes to everyone."

Thank you to Joseph for writing in. Please share your news with us via the email at the top of the column. Enjoy the fall!

COLUMBIA SCHOOL DESIGNATIONS

BC	Barnard College
BUS	Columbia Business School
CP	Pharmaceutical Sciences
DM	College of Dental Medicine
GS	School of General Studies
GSAPP	Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation
GSAS	Graduate School of Arts and Sciences
HN	Institute of Human Nutrition
JRN	Graduate School of Journalism
JTS	Jewish Theological Seminary
LAW	Columbia Law School
LS	Library Service
NRS	School of Nursing
PH	Mailman School of Public Health
PS	College of Physicians and Surgeons
SEAS	The Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science
SIPA	School of International and Public Affairs
SOA	School of the Arts
SPS	School of Professional Studies
SW	School of Social Work
TC	Teachers College
UTS	Union Theological Seminary

1953

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

CCT reached out to the class and heard from **Bernard L. Epstein** SEAS'58: "The day before formal graduation I was commissioned in the regular Navy and reported to my ship in Norfolk, Va. For a bit more than three years I sailed the Atlantic, Pacific, Caribbean and Mediterranean — lots at sea, little in port. I then transferred to the Navy Reserve: two weeks a year to ships and once-weekly nightly meetings. While in the reserve I went back to Columbia to finish my B.S. in engineering and got a job, with more schooling at night, where available for advanced degrees. Married Naomi, who recently passed away after 60 great years together. I have two boys (lawyers). Retired to a house in East Hampton and now am in an apartment in NYC due to the virus. I have no other family."

Thank you to Bernard for writing in. Please share your news with us via the email at the top of the column. Have a safe and healthy fall!

1954

Bernd Brecher
brecherservices@aol.com

Gentlemen of '54, greetings once again from your class correspondent and president, doing my best to keep an upper chin while trying to *tummel* classmates into more joyful responses during a time of Covid-19. While we begin to exit our caves we realize that we are still in a state of mental lockdown. Further, it is

always challenging to write this Class Notes column for thrice-yearly publication several months ahead while hoping to project/guess/predict a positive view within a national political climate that is akin to global warming. So ... are you with me? Then let's get going!

You realize of course that not only is '54 at the beginning of this Class Notes section, but also that the four classes or groupings before us have a generic *CCT* staff "editor" gathering the class news rather than a real classmate (me!). Right now I am still smarting over New York State having appropriated my perpetual column charge and sign-off — "Excelsior!" — for its new license plates. I've received no recognition for this contribution but still feel honored.

We owe an apology to **Harvey Rubin** SEAS'58, who sent us a joyous and informative biographical essay but in a handwritten format that was difficult to decipher in time for publication.

Harvey, I am able to share your opening but request that you send typed copy of the rest that we can then share in the next Class Notes column.

Harvey writes: "On March 1, 2020, just before Covid-19, I celebrated my 87th birthday with my family ... I realized that what I said at our 65th reunion last year — that the best thing that happened to me at the College was that I met Judith BC'55, my wife. She was a freshman at Barnard at age 16 and I was an 18-year-old sophomore. We married a year later, on December 7 no less ..."

With a trailer like that, Harvey, how do we dare miss the rest of the story?



From **Arnold Tolkin**, world traveler and frequent correspondent, comes "An update. Well, we survived the pandemic so far, but arthritis and a reaction to the Covid-19 vaccine did my wife, Barbie, and me in for a month or more. My arthritis has gotten so bad that physicians won't even consider surgery on the knees. My wife had a serious reaction to the Covid vaccine.

"Other than that, we are expecting our 13th great-grandchild, another Tolkin boy. Everything being equal we will fly to Monte Carlo in November and cruise back to Miami, [with a total of] 26 days at sea. We have been to every port of call numerous times, so the ship is our destination. Plenty of time to read, exercise and play bridge. Children are all fine, grandchildren even better and great-grandchildren, five of whom were born during the pandemic, will I hope get to know us better when we go north in August.

"Still booking lots of cruises, tours, and now even villas for family vacations. Between the travel business and my work on genealogy I am extremely busy.

"Stay well, and I wish all classmates good health. Stay active."

Thanks, Arnie for sharing ... there may even be a surgeon in our class who can help those knees.

Hon. **Alvin Hellerstein** LAW'56, who is a regular presenter at all our reunions, writes: "We have survived a difficult period. The federal district court on which I serve continued to function, but at a reduced level, and individual judges became more and more adept at 'virtual performances' — hearing arguments in civil cases, criminal pleas, and sentencing, and many other functions, coming into chambers from time to time but basically working from home, or wherever we hunkered out the pandemic. But we're all anxious to get back to the courthouse to perform our jobs.

"In May," Alvin continues, "I broke out of my cocoon, traveling first to family in Los Angeles, and then to Israel to see family there (and two new great-grandchildren). We all are living years that most of us never thought to reach. But here we are, in our late ages (most of us), still vital and doing important things (many of us), still looking forward to new experiences. Midst all the heartaches, nationally and personally, we are blessed, even as we mourn for departed friends and classmates.

"Good health to all (or a passable resemblance to same)."

Thanks, Alvin, for your thoughtful comments, and all our best to you and great-grandchildren number 2 and 3.

Our class's "diabetes scientist," Dr. **Richard Bernstein** SEAS'55, has offered to "send my College memoir, *Big Ben,* about a legendary CC professor," to interested classmates. Let me know if you need his email address.

As a last-century *Spectator* associate and features editor, I continue to take great pride whenever the paper and its staff are recognized for their efforts and achievements. I am pleased to share the following excerpt from a *Spec* story this past June:

"Many of our staffers went home from the office on March 8, 2020, just like any other normal Sunday night — for the last time in what would eventually be over a year. However, despite being physically apart, our staff was able to produce some of our best journalism in recent years, bringing us to win the Best All-Around Student Newspaper award by the Society of Professional Journalists. This award celebrates *Spectator* journalism during the 2020 calendar year, which was considered outstanding work worthy of a national honor."

I am sorry to share the news that **John H. Timoney** died peacefully at home on July 3, 2021, after a long illness. You can read more about John in this issue's "Obituaries" section. His 2008 memoir, *From La Paz to Princeton,* tells his story. We offer heartfelt condolences to John's widow, Ana; and his children, grandchildren, great-grandchild, and extended family.

Our next "gathering," men of '54, will occur in mid-January 2022, in the Winter 2021–22 issue of *CCT.* I'll begin preparing copy for that issue at about the time you receive the issue you are now holding. I invite and remind you to get your news to me *right now* so we can begin immediately plotting our biggest column ever. *CCT*'s associate editor, Anne-Ryan Sirju JRN'09, with whom I have worked all along — having just had her first baby — will be back from maternity leave and raring to go. (We are appreciative that Lisa Palladino, *CCT*'s executive editor, has been pitching in during her absence.) Please inundate me with copy about your families, colleagues, retirement, new jobs, pets, Covid inoculations, and other adventures; wishes and nightmares; aches and pains — we have no shame — presidential hopefuls, favorite restaurants, and recent observations about alma mater.

As always, reach me by email, U.S. mail, telephone, Amazon, FedEx, carrier pigeon, or whatever your favorite route. Be well, do well, and help cure the world, and hug your significant others, kids, grandkids, g-grandkids, neighbors, friends, and political enemies (or not). C U soon. Luv, Bernd. Excelsior!

1955

Gerald Sherwin
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CCT reached out to the class in the late spring and was pleased to hear from the following class members:

Lewis Sternfels writes: "I have been semi-retired since December 1988 but still practice intellectual property law in my home office (got to keep the gray cells going!), helping inventors to obtain patents and all to obtain trademark and service mark registration in the U.S. and foreign offices. You may have experienced the use of several of the inventions I patented for a former client — Waterfree urinals in men's restrooms. Aside from that, I am active, involved with our synagogue and other worthwhile activities, and working out with my wife, Diane, twice a week with a trainer and, I must say, in very good health. We missed very much our 2020 class reunion and reuniting with classmates (so much fun), and look forward to our 2025 one; Columbia does such great presentations. In the meantime, my wife and I visited our daughters, their families — including granddaughters, grandpuppies and grandkitties — in Decatur, Ga., and Wake Forest, N.C., in May, as well as explored interesting parts of our country."

Dr. **Allen I. Hyman** replies: "Hello, Class of '55. My wife, Valerie, and I decided to make Stockbridge, Mass., our domicile. We live near the Bowl and two miles from the Tanglewood gate. We will still keep our NYC apartment. It may seem trivial, but psychologically,



CC'56 held its 65th reunion virtually on June 6. In a screenshot from the gathering are, left to right, top row: Bob Siroty, Dan Link, Ralph Kaslick, Dick Capen and Fred Kutner; second row: Ralph Longsworth, Richard Schwarzstein, Paul Bergins, Phil Liebson and off-camera, Donald Roth; third row: Peter Klein, Grover Wald, Robert Milburn, Stephen Easton and Alan Broadwin; fourth row: Jerry Fine, Jack Katz, Ron Kapon, David Orrik and Jonas Schultz; and bottom row: Joost Oppenheim, Gerald Farber, Eric Shea, senior director, alumni relations, and off-camera, Michael Spett.

it was 'a big move.' Valerie is on the advisory board of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, and Jacob's Pillow has become important to us. Come up and see us sometime."

Ralph Wagner BUS'58 shares: "In the midst of the pandemic, my wife, Audrey, and I were charmed to buy a farm complex in Little Compton, R.I. The property consists of a main house, a barn with ample family space and sleeping accommodations, and gardens of flowers from spring to fall. Our adventure at age 87 was published in the June 18, 2021, issue of *The Wall Street Journal*."

William Kronick updates us: "I've spent the pandemic year-plus working on my seventh novel (the preceding six are available on Amazon), with a screenplay, completed just as Covid-19 struck, about to make the rounds. For classmates interested in my prior career in film, much of my work as writer and/or director can now be seen on YouTube. One just has to type in my name!"

Mike Vaughn writes from afar: "I am alive and well and have been living in Australia since 2017, having retired from Northeastern University in Boston in 2010. We have seen the pandemic, not so pervasive as elsewhere in the world but totally disrupting universities here, as elsewhere. We hope to visit the United States when(/if?) international travel from Australia resumes. Best wishes to all."

Gordon Silverman SEAS'56, SEAS'57 writes more than just this Class Note: "A note for a '55C Lion. The fourth edition of *Cognitive Science: An Introduction to the Study of the Mind,* of which I am co-author, will be published this fall."

Anthony Viscusi GSAS'58 shares news of himself and his family: "My wife, Margo, and I have been more or less happily ensconced in our country home in the woods surrounding the Village of Rhinebeck in the Hudson Valley since March 2020. This has enabled us to marvel at the changes brought about by the passing of seasons and to enjoy the wild animals paying us frequent visits. We are in better health than we were 10 years ago, but alas, our level of energy is much lower. We spend too much time in front of the computer in an attempt to remain in touch with the rest of the world.

"Unlike ours, the life of our progeny has been very eventful. Our granddaughter Cleopatra McGovern, after completing her residency at Mount Sinai in June 2020, gave birth to Calliope on July 15, 2020. We find her delightful and do not resent her turning us into great-grandparents. Cleopatra's older and unmarried brother, Elvis McGovern, who has founded and heads medical marijuana companies in California, in order not to be left too far behind, fathered a baby boy, Zeus, born on June 1, 2021. Their mother, our daughter Athena Viscusi, is a psychosocial specialist for Doctors Without Borders. She recently returned from a stint in the war-ravaged Tigray region of Ethiopia."

If you have news, please email the *CCT* staff at cct@columbia.edu, or use the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note, and it will be shared with me for a future issue.

Love to all! Everywhere!

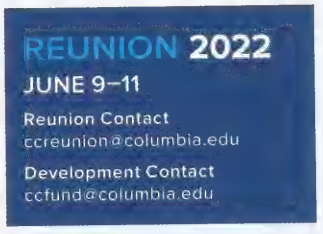
1956

Robert Siroty
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What a wonderful "virtual 65th reunion" on June 6, 65 years and one day after we sat at Commencement. Twenty-four members of the class gathered on Zoom for two hours of memories and reports (see the nearby photo). Present were **Paul Bergins, Jerry Breslow, Alan Broadwin, Stephen Easton, Gerald Farber, Jerry Fine, Ron Kapon, Ralph Kaslick, Jack Katz, Peter Klein, Fred Kutner, Phil Liebson, Dan Link, Ralph Longsworth, Robert Milburn, Joost Oppenheim, David Orrik, Donald Roth, Jonas Schultz, David Schuster, Richard Schwarzstein, Edward Smith, Mike Spett, Grover Wald** and yours truly. We are hoping to begin planning for our 70th reunion on campus soon. Or perhaps one in between.

I received notice of the deaths of **Fred Lewis** in September 2019, and **Stanley Stier** in April 2021. Stan, after graduating from New York Medical College, served in the Navy during the Cuban Missile Crisis, and then served patients at The Hospital of Central Connecticut - New Britain General Campus, Yale New Haven Hospital and Griffin Hospital. He had a private practice, and later was a medical director in the healthcare industry. After relocating to Florida he continued his advocacy work as a volunteer at a local hospice. He had been a world traveler, as well. **Ron Kapon** reports the May 28, 2021, death of his friend and fraternity brother **Frederic Brooks.**

1957



Herman Levy
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Erich S. Gruen writes: "The Covid-19 year meant much sheltering in place. I managed to get in one last trip at the end of February 2020, for a lecture at the University of Colorado. The rest of the year, and half of 2021, found me holed up at home. The enforced confinement did allow me to finish [writing] a book, *Ethnicity in the Ancient World: Did it Matter?*, which came out in September 2020. And I was especially humbled and honored when the Society for Classical Studies announced the creation of the Erich S. Gruen Prize, to be awarded annually, funded mostly by my former graduate students (who are now professors in various universities), to commemorate my 85th birthday. That eased the pain of reaching yet another unwanted reminder of age. Now fully vaccinated, I expect to resume traveling soon. The first stop in the fall will

be to address a conference in Berlin. We are entering the new normal."

Please send your news to me at the email address at the top of the column and I will include it in a future issue.

[Editor's note: Columbia Reunion 2022, for classes ending in 2 and 7, and the Class of 2021, is scheduled for June 9–11. Watch your mailbox and inbox for more information.]

1958

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As this issue goes to press at the end of August, it looks like Covid-19 is finally on its way out, and New York, as well as the rest of the country, should be relatively normal by September, though we do have to keep an eye on those pesky "variants." How we survived since March 2020 varies from person to person and group to group, but **Peter Barth** has offered his thoughts on what seems to have worked for some classmates (me included). He writes: "The pandemic was made a bit more tolerable by the regular Zoom sessions joined by five classmates, all AEPi fraternity brothers, and their wives. Beginning in spring 2020 and continuing to the present, every second Monday **Peter Cohn, Bob Levine, Walt Lipow, Carl Stern** and I (along with our spouses) spent a pleasant hour on a variety of subjects including the latest streaming of movies and shows and book recommendations, pre- and then post-election observations, where and how to obtain Covid vaccinations and other news of the day. An interesting diversity of views emerged on a host of topics. No agenda is prepared for the sessions, but they invariably maintain active conversation for an hour or so until the scheduled Zoom time expires."

Charlie Feuer writes about his fond remembrances of 329 Livingston, a dorm room he shared with **Gerry Simon.** They were often visited by **Roger Lass.** Charlie adds: "How Roger disappeared from my radar has been a mystery that might attract some leads from readers of the Class Notes."

Any takers?

On a sadder note, I saw an obituary notice for **Maurice H. Katz** in the June 20, 2021, edition of *The New York Times.* Soon afterward I received emails from **Ira Carlin, Ernie Brod** and **Shelly Raab** (who roomed with Maury in their third year of law school) all calling my attention to the same obituary. Maury died on June 5, 2021, in Los Angeles, where he had lived and worked for many years after graduating from Harvard Law in 1961. Very active in the cultural life of Los Angeles, he also made time for trips back to New York. He leaves his wife, Margery; a sister; three sons; and six grandchildren. [Editor's note: See "Obituaries."]

Our condolences to the family.

As of this writing, no word yet on the resumption of the class luncheons. Please keep sending news about yourself or classmates.

1959

Norman Gelfand
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Steve Trachtenberg moved to Minneapolis, on Lake Harriet, on July 7 to be closer to his children and grandchildren.

Louis Stephens writes, "My wife, Karen, and I have found studios in Newburg close enough to NYC to commute any day. Metro-North to Beacon then cross the river. It's an old brick factory that was once operated by Regal Bag, converted to studios and right on the river. Rent is cheap. Actually, Karen was the one who found the place; she writes, I paint. Got a big enough space for my seven-day paintings all in a row. Glorious!"

Herbert M. Dean writes, "I am very disappointed in Columbia and [what I see as] its culture politics of continuing to link individuals by groups based on skin color, sexual orientation, country of origin or left- or right-leaning (good versus bad!), therefore rather deliberately or by some false belief in its correctness, contributing to divide our society rather than bring us together through promoting separateness and what feels like modern-day tribalism. Haven't our Columbia teachers learned anything from Humanities and CC? I think *Alma Mater* has tears in her eyes."

From **Benjamin J. "Jerry" Cohen** GSAS'63, we hear, "After an academic career stretching back to 1964, I have decided to retire. Following our graduation, I earned a Ph.D. in economics from Columbia and then for two years was a research economist at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York before taking my first teaching position at Princeton. I spent seven years at Princeton; 20 years at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts; and 30 years at UC Santa Barbara.

"The arc of my career has been a story of gradual transition from the historical discipline of economics to a new hybrid field of study known as international political economy. Prior to the 1960s, the two academic specialties of international economics and international politics rarely spoke to each other. I was privileged to be part of a generation of scholars who sought to merge the two in order to provide a more complete understanding of behavior and trends in the global economy. At Princeton I was an assistant professor of economics. At Fletcher I became the William L. Clayton Professor of International Economic Affairs. And at UCSB I have been the Louis G. Lancaster Professor of International Political Economy, now to become emeritus. This past year, in anticipation of my retirement, I decided to gather my recollections in a brief, private stab at autobiography. My effort gradually grew into a full-fledged public memoir that will be published this summer under the title *Lucky Jerry: The Life of a Political Economist.*

"The title is deliberately chosen. I do indeed count myself as lucky. The story of my coming to Columbia is illustrative. As I approached graduation from high school in the small town where I was raised in upstate New York, the key question facing me was: Where would I go to college? I knew absolutely nothing about the comparative merits of different universities; nor, regrettably, did the high school guidance counselor. 'What would you like to study?' she asked. At the time I was thinking of law. So she handed me an encyclopedia of colleges and universities and suggested I search for any that listed pre-law as part of its program. That was the extent of her guidance. The blind leading the blind. The first four schools I came across were Bucknell, Columbia, Cornell and Lehigh — admittedly, a rather mixed bag. But what did I know? I was accepted by them all and, lacking good advice, might as easily have gone to one as to another.

"Happily, sheer dumb luck took over. First was my good fortune to be awarded a New York State Regents scholarship, which I could receive only if I chose to study at a university in the Empire State. That ruled out Bucknell and Lehigh. And second was the fact that I had recently met the young woman who was to become my first wife. She happened to live in New York City — specifically, Queens — and was about to start her studies at Queens College. That ruled out Cornell, which would have made seeing her rather difficult. So, by a random process of elimination Columbia became my choice. On such fragile foundations did I construct one of the most important decisions of my life. I have never regretted that decision — the first of many key moments where serendipity played a major role.

"Over the course of my career, I have authored 16 books, as well as scores of journal articles and other professional publications. But none has given me as much pure pleasure as my reflection on the role that luck has played throughout my life. It's been a fun ride."

Ben Janowski wants us to know, "Fortunately, I remain in excellent health, enjoying retirement, and especially the birth of my third granddaughter. No grandsons. Our family sustained Covid-19 without event. For a whole year we had a Saturday night Zoom get-together that really was a blessing. And now, we are all in the family pod once again.

"Life has been good to me. I am very thankful for that.

"Here's to seeing you at our 65th!"

Josh Fierer writes, "As a result of the pandemic, after 49 years working at UC San Diego School of Medicine, I reluctantly decided in September 2020 to become an emeritus professor and to retire from the affiliated VA where I was chief of infectious disease. As such, I was very involved with planning for the pandemic before it hit San Diego. That was before we had enough testing capacity to know who was infected and who was not. One of the planes taking Americans from China landed at MCAS San Diego, and the first two patients were treated at UCSD Hospital. We saw then how unprepared the United States was, with the only diagnostic tests being done at the CDC, and they misinformed us about a test result, so a patient was discharged prematurely.

"At the VA we had to convert many patient rooms to negative pressure isolation rooms in our 50-year-old building. I also ran the microbiology lab at the VA, and we had to scramble to get testing supplies when the PCR assays became available and develop protocols for handling patient samples. There were lots of decisions to be made to get ready, and then the pandemic hit us, and patients began arriving with Covid. It was overwhelming and beyond frustrating for me not to have anything but oxygen with which to treat them. There were lots of crazy ideas and desperate use of 'repurposed' drugs, and it took a long time for enough evidence to be collected to convince frustrated panicked providers not to do useless things.

"As it became clear that nearly all the mortality was in people my age, and that I had nothing to offer the SARS-2 victims, I gave in to the pleading of my colleagues and stepped down from my position to allow younger people to take my place. Things are much better now, and we have no more than one of two Covid cases in the hospital on any given day, so I am volunteering my service twice a week. The VA got RNA vaccine in December, and it vaccinated all willing employees, including me. My wife, Norma, got vaccinated a few months later through UCSD. We remained holed up anyway. Now we are finally able to do more, and attended my daughter's wedding anniversary party in the backyard of her San Diego home. We also took a chance and flew to the East Coast for a family funeral and then took Amtrak to New York to see my son and his wife for the first time in nearly two years; we went to the Bronx Zoo with them for Mother's Day (my first trip to that venerable old zoo). We went out to eat with them on the Upper West Side, near Columbia, sitting outdoors. I swear, the noise level from ambulances and motorcycles was so awful that it was hard to enjoy the meals; much quieter eating outdoors in La Jolla, where we live.

"I will try to get back to my research lab soon to try to finish up the project I have been working on for years. We are hopeful that we will be able to travel more while we can still do it physically."

I am saddened to have to report the death of **Roger Spivack** on January 3, 2021. May his memory be for a blessing. [Editor's note: See "Obituaries."]

CCT limits each class to 1,500 words, so that means that contributions from **Jerry Friedland** and **Mike Tannenbaum** will have to wait for the Winter 2021–22 issue. I apologize to them and to you. I will include their submissions in the email that I will send to classmates. If I don't have your email, please send it to me. I don't send it to Columbia. [Editor's note: If you wish to update it with Columbia, however, you are welcome to do so: email cct@columbia.edu, or use this webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/update_contact_info.]

1960

Robert A. Machleder
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Len Berkman, playwright, essayist, librettist and teacher of theater at Smith College as the Anne Hesseltine Hoyt Professor of Theatre, writes, "Like many of us especially in theater and opera, I will dearly miss **Terry McNally.** We were often seatmates in Professor Andrew Chiappe CC 1933, GSAS'39's fascinating yearlong Shakespeare course, and subsequent path-crossings and mutual friends enlivened our times at the Sundance Institute and Manhattan Theatre Club.

"I'm now in my 51st year on the theatre faculty of Smith, cherish my students and will bop till I drop. My latest play, *We Three/Wir Drei,* translated into German by Yannik Raiss, is next headed for post–Covid-19 presentation at the Hamburg Kunsthalle, the city's central art museum, where the remarkable paintings of Philipp Otto Runge (1777–1810), whose life and works inspired my ahistorical script, boast the first major retrospective in more than 30 years. I've also drafted an opera libretto, *The King Without a Voice (Le Roi Sans Voix)* for my composer collaborator, Marco Rosano of Sicily, who's best known for his *Stabat Mater,* recorded and performed internationally by German countertenor Andreas Scholl.

"A major portion of my professional life continues to focus on new play development dramaturgy, my current projects being *The Investor* by Bill Martin for Epic Theatre Ensemble (NYC) and *The Singing River* by Jerry Patch (of Manhattan Theatre Club) for Red Mountain Theatre in Birmingham, Ala. Among an array of other theater affiliations, I've been with NY Stage & Film Summer Seasons for more than three decades and almost as long an editorial associate for London's quarterly journal, *Contemporary Theatre Review.* My most recent publications include a memoir of Greenwich Village in the 1950s for the premiere issue of *Caffe Cino* and an essay, 'Insiders/Outsiders on the U.S. Stage,' for *Massachusetts Review.*"

Len has received numerous awards, including the Charis Medal for academic excellence and commitment to teaching, and the Sherrerd Prize for distinguished teaching.

Stephen Ollendorff LAW'63 writes, "This is one of the most exciting times of my life. We completed a movie, *The Match.* It involves many Academy Award winners, including the production, script and music. I was gratified to be one of the writers and The Ollendorff Center for Religious & Human Understanding as one of the three major producers."

Three notes of explanation: (i) *The Match* was inspired by an actual event: a football match in 1944 organized by Nazi soldiers to commemorate Hitler's birthday. The game was played by an elite Nazi team against a team of Hungarian prisoners; (ii) Stephen is the founder of The Ollendorff Center for Religious & Human Understanding. Established in 2001, the center, through a broad-based spectrum of projects, seeks to provide answers for living a spiritual, ethical and rational Jewish life and present practical solutions for a modern Judaism; and (iii) Stephen, a Holocaust survivor, fled Nazi Germany to England the day after *Kristallnacht* due to the efforts of his maternal grandmother. They made it to this country in February 1939.

His entire family on his paternal grandfather's side died. One uncle worked for the underground and was shot trying to escape from a concentration camp.

Stephen founded The Ollendorff Center in honor of his grandmother Valli, who was sent to her death in the Theresienstadt concentration camp.

"We have been funded to produce two additional movies based upon scripts of which I am one of the principal writers," Stephen adds.

"In addition, I am deeply involved in trying to get Israel to adopt a constitution to guarantee the existence of Israel as a Jewish state as well as guaranteeing the rights of all Israeli citizens. I have proposed such a constitution and have been interviewed on Israeli TV and radio. I am extremely hopeful that it will be favorably considered very soon. It is time that Prime Minister Ben-Gurion's dream be realized."

Don Altshuler writes, "Before entering Columbia, I lived in Brooklyn. Manhattan was really the center of the universe. My mother took me to Broadway shows, Leonard Bernstein taught me about classical music with the best orchestra in the world and there I saw the famous works of art. Entering this land of Oz, I roomed with a friend from high school, **Michael Hertzberg.** I thought I wanted to be an architect although I questioned whether I had the talent to support myself in that profession. I was active in the Columbia Players and participated in a number of productions. In senior year I thought of going into theater. But I knew I did not have **Brian Dennehy**'s talent. It seemed that all my classmates were going to law school or med school. I chose law school.

"With my friend **Bob Abrams,** I went to NYU. While in law school I got married. After law school I worked at a Wall Street law firm, then as house counsel to a large international corporation. My father died and I had a mid-life crisis. I remembered my desire to be an architect. I created my own construction company and started designing and building homes. I created a number of communities in New England.

"I was living in Westchester with my wife, Carol, and my children, Deborah, Douglas and Sarah. But in the early '70s I had a second mid-mid-life crisis. In 1974, I signed up for the *est* seminar and then became an *est* seminar leader. Although my business life was very successful, I discovered a spiritual side to my life that was completely undeveloped. My wife and I separated and I moved to Lenox, Mass. I purchased a property owned by George Westinghouse on which he discovered AC current with Nikola Tesla. The property was sold to the Vanderbilts, who had the Boston Symphony perform each summer in what became the Tanglewood concerts.

"In 1977, I met my now-wife, Jean Macfarland, and we have been together for more than 40 years. During the '70s and '80s I developed a number of communities in the Berkshire area, including the Ponds at Foxhollow. During the mid-'80s there was a downturn in the real estate market and I decided to retire to a home we had in Santa Fe, N.M. I failed terribly at retirement and started creating a number of projects, including one of the first cohousing communities in the United States, The Commons on the Alameda and a major affordable housing project for the City of Santa Fe, Tierra Contenta. I am still failing at retirement and have a few projects I am trying to complete."

Doug Eden writes from the United Kingdom: "Coronavirus and accompanying events on this side of the pond seem rather less frantic and damaging than on your side. The last two generations here have only just discovered a number of statues to slaveowners still erected in Bristol and elsewhere, many of whom received handsome compensation from the U.K. government when their slaves in the Caribbean were emancipated between 1833 and 1838 (and of course received no compensation). So, there is much arguing now about what should be done 200 years later, amid current arguments about the pandemic.

"I was recently involved in the publication of Labour Leader Jeremy Corbyn's biography, *Dangerous Hero: Corbyn's Ruthless Plot for Power,* by Tom Bower, which had a significant influence on the last British general election.

"Some very dear alumni friends have sadly lost their spouses in recent years. I am still in close touch with Dr. **Vince Russo** and aware of **George Camarinos** and **Tom Palmieri** thanks to Vince, but have lost touch with my roommate **Bob Coppola,** who left his California home after the passing of his wife. I would be grateful to know he is in reasonable health and to be put back in touch with him. I have known Vince since high school, some 67 years, and thank him for keeping up contact all this time.

"My early mentor, Professor Henry Graff GSAS'49, now deceased, introduced me to Theodore Roosevelt. I became a biographer of TR, am still a professor at the Theodore Roosevelt Association and was an advisor to Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. I've spent my life in London as an historian at the University of London and Middlesex University London and in politics since 1965 when I left the Army, where I handled the 1964 Vietnam press conferences in Honolulu for Robert McNamara and Gen. Maxwell Taylor. I recall Ron Sommer '59, whom I often saw in London in 1960–62. I'd be glad to see him if he passes through London again. I was affected when I learned **Brian Dennehy** died. I last saw him when he performed as Willie Loman in London.

"I've been happily married to my Scottish wife, Janette, since 1973, who is unfortunately not in the best of health, at home in Highgate, North London."



JOHN AIBEL

Three generations of the Silverman family (left to right), Alexander Aibel '23, Leonard Silverman '61, Sarah Silverman Aibel '92 and Madeline Aibel '25, celebrated Madeline's graduation from Crossroads H.S. in Santa Monica, Calif., on June 8.

1961

Michael Hausig
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Mel Urofsky has written a new book on campaign finance. It's a good read, according to **Mickey Greenblatt,** and best of all, it is dedicated to the CC'61 lunch group and book club, which has been a happy beneficiary of Mel's presence and great insights. Campaign finance cases included are Buckley, McConnell, Citizens United and McCutcheon.

John Learned writes that things are getting more painful, as his old friends are disappearing so frighteningly rapidly. A *Festschrift* (celebration for academic work) was planned for John last year with people coming from around the globe, but it was canceled because of Covid-19. He has asked them not to try again until he passes 90, should he be so fortunate. Then it will have to be almost all young friends. All is quiet in Hawaii, but John says he hopes to get back to in-person teaching in the fall.

Doug McCorkindale has some good advice to all classmates: Do not become the president of a new, high-end condo association, especially if the owners include attorneys, financial experts and retired politicians! Also, for those who play golf: Technology is not keeping up with the aging process.

Dr. **Carl Saviano** was elected president of the Pioneer Valley Physicians for Social Responsibility. They continue to demand that our leaders do everything they can to prevent nuclear war. Please see "Back from the Brink, the Call to Prevent Nuclear War" at preventnuclearwar.org to learn more about this effort.

Bob Salman LAW'64 was elected to his sixth consecutive term as a member of the New Jersey Democratic State Committee, representing Monmouth County. In his five prior four-year terms, Bob was appointed to the primary ballot by the county chair. This year he had to win a pre-primary election among Monmouth County committee people and officeholders to gain his spot on the ballot.

On June 16, Bob and his wife, Reva, celebrated their 58th anniversary. At our 60th (virtual) reunion Bob joined **Stu Sloame** LAW'64 in co-hosting a discussion comparing politics in 1961 with politics today.

Sam Rofman works part time as a psychiatrist and physician reviewer for Tufts Health Plan in Massachusetts. He was pleased to report that in April he was awarded the 2021 Clinical Psychiatry Award by the Massachusetts Psychiatric Society.

Regarding **Nat Reichek** PS'65's passing reported in the Spring/Summer 2021 issue's "Obituaries" section, with more in this issue, Sam received a copy of an email sent to **Oscar Garfein** PS'65, BUS'97 from the development director at P&S should anyone from the class wish to make a gift to the University in honor of Nat: "Thank you for inquiring about a fund for students' needs other than scholarship support. We are creating the VP&S Medical Student Support Fund, the fund is to cover expenses such as technology and electronics, special devices that can meet the specifications for ExamSoft and Epic, etc. It would be great if Mrs. Reichek were to include that donations made in memory of her husband be directed to the VP&S Medical Student Support Fund. All donations will be acknowledged and the donor will receive a tax receipt for the charitable gift. Please let me know if you wish to discuss further." It was from Laura R. Tenenbaum, Senior Director of Development, 516 W. 168th St., 3rd Fl., New York, NY 10032; laura.tenenbaum@columbia.edu; 212-342-2108.

Mike Clark SEAS'62 wrote that there was nothing of significance to report from this "lone outpost" in Nevada and Arizona. Both he and his wife, Joanna, are still in relatively good health and enjoy their beautiful southwestern USA. Golf, fly-fishing, mountain climbing and good food consume most of their leisure time, they say. Mike went to Alaska to catch rainbows in July, then silver salmon in September and pheasants in South Dakota in October, and plans to fish for rainbow bass in Brazil in January

Len Silverman shared the nearby photo of his three-generation Columbia family.

In May, the CC'61 TEP boys had a virtual reunion. Four doctors, three lawyers and an architect: **Ira Novak, Michael Schachter, Joel Blumen, Steve Shappell, Sam Strober, Ted Pincus** and **Hillel Hoffman**, were joined by Joel Merker '60. A good time was had by all, and they all agreed that their grandchildren were above average.

Ed Kaplan retired as a practicing attorney in 2006. As of July 2020, Ed and his wife, Phyllis, live in Salt Lake City with their daughter's family. Ed has been in contact with Bob Andersen '60, who also lives in Salt Lake, but only by telephone because of the pandemic.

Sadly, **Tony Adler** passed away on May 4 from pancreatic cancer. **Stuart Newman** spoke with Tony earlier this spring. They talked about the 60th reunion and both considered it a privilege just to be around for a 60th reunion! Not a hint from Tony of any distress or uncertainty about the June reunion. His passing so quickly was quite a shock. The NYC CC'61 lunch group, which Tony organized and ran diligently for so many years, created something very special for class solidarity and preserving the College spirit. Tony also created a class email list that allowed us to voice opinions and share information broadly. He deserves much credit for these accomplishments.

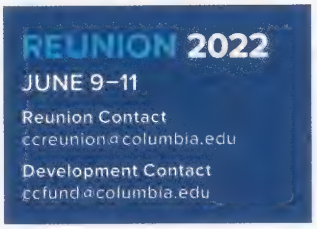
Tony is survived by his wife, Donna; sons, Peter and Erik and their wives, Holly and Julie; grandsons, Chase and Jet; and of course, the one (fish that is) that got away. Rest in peace, Tony.

The family welcomes donations to the American Parkinson's Disease Association (apdaparkinson.org/memorial-tribute-1907d3l). Tony wished to support Donna's ongoing struggle with Parkinson's. In the "Donation Dedication" section, please check the "In Honor Of" button and specify "Donna and Tony Adler."

Alex Liebowitz informed me that **Dick Hall** passed away in early June. The funeral was June 19. It was pretty sudden. Heleny, Dick's wife, said that within three weeks Dick went from going out to a restaurant to being unable to eat.

Dick and Heleny had recently moved from Washington, D.C., to Williamstown, Mass. Alex and his wife, Denise, watched the funeral service remotely and said they found it very moving.

1962



John Freidin
jf@bicyclevt.com

In June I emailed half of our class (L to Z) to ask which two or three from a list of developments during the last 80 years were most significant for you and why. If you'd like that list, please email me at jf@bicyclevt.com. This winter I expect to ask the same question to the balance of the class.

Rich Rothenberg picked two that affected him directly: "rearing children and the deaths and medical struggles of peers."

Jim Spingarn is most concerned about "lack of ethics and decency on almost all levels of corporations; they take advantage of individuals with little knowledge or defense, particularly in healthcare, drug and service industries. Next: the appalling self-interest of our elected representatives, local, state and federal. They stopped serving the country and public long ago, and the country is much worse for it. Third: choosing self-interest over public good. Also, global warming; racism; anti-Semitism; inequality in income, education and living standards; populism; theft of individual rights (abortion, healthcare and voting); and materialism. We seem to have lost our moral compass. But I am optimistic things will get better."

Toby Robison chose 1) The Cold War and fear of Communism: "My father was a communist before WWII, and I discovered this the hard way at 11, when he was compelled to testify before the House Un-American Activities Committee. I grew up thinking Commies were the enemy and became a closet son-of-a-communist. Later I had an awakening at a summer camp full of the children of communists, and married a wonderful red-diaper baby." 2) The assassinations of John F. Kennedy, Malcom X and Martin Luther King Jr.: "Each was a bullet shot through a light of grace and hope." 3) "Reliable contraception was so significant we hardly thought about the alternative. I can't imagine our lives otherwise." 4) Finding your way in the world of work: "I grew up assuming I'd be an academic, although nothing in academia appealed to me. Then I discovered an affinity for programming computers, and a viable life opened before me."

For **Joe Nozzolio** it was 9-11. On that morning Joe was in his AIG office, two blocks from the Twin Towers. A week earlier he'd had lunch on the 103rd floor of the South Tower with several folks from AON Group. His hosts included Tom, whom he later hired, and Frank, with whom he often visited clients. "After the death of my son Matthew in 1994, Frank was especially thoughtful in listening to my bittersweet stories about Matthew and giving me solace When the Towers came down, it sounded like a freight train hitting a cement truck. The sky blackened, and all I could see outside were floating papers and street lights. Then a miracle occurred — into our office walked Tom, white with concrete dust, and covered in sweat. He explained that when the North Tower was first hit, he and several colleagues decided to walk down 103 flights of stairs. It took them over an hour. I asked him about Frank. Tom answered 'He decided to stay.' I learned later that Frank perished, as did eight members of my brother Mike's law firm. Luckily, he was in Albany. When I returned to work a week later, the stink of concrete dust and a burnt building still lingered in the air."

From Helsinki, **Charles Morrow** wrote: "Your list of developments is sobering, starting with War against Nazism and Fascism and ending with the January 6 attack, which had the smell and horror of authoritarianism. Most significant for me: 1) Rearing children — being a parent is significant because of its permanence, depth of immersion, and the possibility to grow both a child and oneself. 2) Ubiquitous use of and reliance on internet, computing and AI. There is a steady recontexting of the lives of myself and others in the expanding digital world."

Jeff Milstein added the Great Depression. "It greatly affected my family. When I was a baby, my father had to move us to tiny rural towns so he could get work as a teacher. At one point he moved away from us to earn a living. Top three on your list: 1) WWII and the defeat of Nazi Germany and Imperialist Japan was significant, because my father had to join the Army and was shipped to Europe. Thus, in my early years, my mother and grandparents raised me. 2) Finding my way through the world of work was a long, winding path. I first had an academic career teaching political science and international relations at Michigan State and Yale. Then I became a civil servant in Washington, D.C., and for 33 years worked in seven different departments and agencies, including the White House. 3) Rearing my six children and now watching my 13 grandchildren and one great-grandson grow up. 4) Living with the threat of war has been a lifelong preoccupation of mine. The real possibility of nuclear war darkened everything we enjoyed and accomplished. Nearly constant conventional wars and counterinsurgencies have influenced my thinking about humanity."

Charles Nadler was especially affected by 1) War Against Nazism and Fascism. "I was so impressed with my father's service as a naval officer on shore and ship that by 5 I swore I'd join the Navy: NROTC at Columbia; sworn in June 10, 1962." 2) The Cold War and fear of Communism. "I remember diving under my desk during air raid drills at elementary school in Bayside, Queens. But most of all I recall being called to the bridge of my WWII destroyer two hours before my watch began to find the captain standing in long johns beside the XO and senior watch officer. They said they'd heard on the sonar what sounded like a Russian nuclear sub, and our sister ship had assigned us to chase and sink it. The captain assigned me to take the bridge and carry out the order. I took the deck, looked out and saw there in the Bay of Fundy Portuguese and Basque fishing boats with their nets spread between us and where the sub had gone. I ordered the ship turned toward the nets and our speed increased. As soon as the screws were entangled in the nets, I ordered the ship to stop. After an hour we got disentangled, and WWIII was out of sight!" 3) Assassinations of John F. Kennedy, Malcom X and Martin Luther King Jr. "I remember the horror of the assassinations, but particularly

that of JFK. I was in dress whites ready to go ashore when the public address system piped that President Kennedy had been shot. He'd been my commander-in-chief and had ordered my ship and me to Cuba during the Cuban Missile Crisis. Suddenly I was sure he was dead."

Frank Stoppenbach commented that "the pandemic and AIDS are tied together, as threats that resisted the scientific process of query, investigation and validation. Authorities believed they knew what was best without double-checking or resolving issues, even those raised by scientists. When desperate doctors in India tried unorthodox medicines, including ivermectin, which seemed to have an effect, Indian authorities — encouraged by the World Health Organization — abolished its use. WHO and U.S. officials believe that only vaccines, not medicines, can deal with viral diseases. But easy calculations show that an antiviral treatment of a viral disease that affects only a small fraction of a population is far more expensive because the entire population must be treated ... It is time to measure our health bureaucrats by results and to support open scientific inquiry ... [On a personal note,] 9-11 and the invasion of Iraq led to my running as a Republican for Congress in 2002. No luck in that race for me, our nation or Iraq. How do leaders face themselves in the mirror, following such failure?"

Anthony Valerio, Gerald Sorin, Dennis Wilder and **Leo Swergold** offered an assortment of developments I failed to list. Among them: the Women's Liberation Movement; Playboy Enterprises between the '50s and '00s; Kamala Harris as Vice President; Mitch McConnell as Senate majority leader; the Big Lie; gun violence; white supremacy; resurgence of anti-Semitism, minority discrimination and hate crimes; the Great Recession; cell phones; and "the current 'woke' generation and its trite-filled reimagining of history." Dennis added, "I think many of us have had emotional reactions to events that did not directly affect us."

John Freidin said, "most significant to me is evidence that our democratic government may be dying. That leads me to choose 1) Widespread damage of natural environment and climate change: an existential failure of our collective will and leaders; 2) Consolidation of major corporations and banks: cause and symptom of disparities in incomes and power and 3) January 6 attack: manifestation of despair and rage against democratic processes."

And, finally, as **Jerry Speyer** wrote: "It's hard to pick just two, as all these issues/events/moments have influenced us!"

[Editor's note: Columbia Reunion 2022, for classes ending in 2 and 7, and the Class of 2021, is scheduled for June 9–11. Watch your mailbox and inbox for more information!]

1963

Paul Neshamkin
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It looks like these terrible months of pandemic are drawing to a close. I hope you and your loved ones have made it through. Please let us know how you are. We have continued to hold our weekly virtual lunches since April 2020, and are just now moving to biweekly, as we are able to finally get out of the house more. Let me know if you'd like to join us, and I'll send you an invite.

Ben Tua writes, "As I approach 80, I have lot to be thankful for. I am a new grandfather. Now I have three, two boys and a girl. I am reasonably healthy. Play tennis several times a week. And take no medications, apart from an occasional aspirin. I do a lot of work around the house, including mowing the lawn and splitting wood for our fireplace. I continue to serve as an elections official in Northern Virginia and remain active intellectually. I attend a lot of virtual conferences, read a lot and share my views with others, including the Class of '63 weekly Zoom meetings, a great **Paul Neshamkin** initiative. I hope to finish President Obama's memoir and *Anna Karenina* this year. My wife has 'moderate' Alzheimer's, which is actually quite pronounced. But she understands a lot, is happy and has a good quality of life."

Doug Anderson writes, "Thirty-seven years later, my wife, Dale, and I have sold our Palm Beach duplex apartment. It took years. Don't buy or build a duplex apartment in a retirement community. We have bought a two-bedroom apartment on the Intercoastal Waterway in West Palm Beach overlooking Palm Beach and the Atlantic Ocean. The building was known as Trump Plaza and we bought it in time to vote to change the name to The Plaza Towers. We joke that we were part of the only impeachment that worked. I have been part of pretty much all our class Zoom lunch calls and have loved them. I missed the last four because I had open heart surgery; a great success. I returned home from NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital exactly a week ago [as I write this], having had a double bypass, two valve replacements and one valve being fixed. The surgeon who spent eight hours working on me is Leonard Girardi. He is spectacular, and I am a very lucky guy."

Doug, it was great to see you looking so well on Zoom — congratulations!

Stephen Honig writes, "Having been locked for months in my third-floor home office trying to practice law, there was both bad news and good news to be found (putting 'stir crazy' aside).

"The bad news was meeting the mechanics of doing business. Without an assistant and a regular office, I found myself promoted to 'staff.' I ordered a high-speed printer/scanner. I ordered a large file cabinet. I set up my own files. Most frustrating was simply sending out snail mail and Fedex and dealing with moving documents. Until Covid-19, I dismissed infrastructure as overhead; now I dismiss my prior dismissal as ignorance.

"The good news is, all the time saved. No commuting. No business travel. No meandering luncheon meetings. The loss of mobility and society translated into many created hours. I have used these hours, after the first month or two of indolence, to address my writing. This March, I published my third book of poetry, 'creatively' titled *Obligatory COVID Chapbook*. While it took Camus a whole book to capture the angst of pandemic, I found that poetry allows you to cut more quickly to the chase. I have also had time to edit a book of short stories and another poetry collection. Having been brought to my knees by dealing with three publishers, I have finally surrendered myself into the hands of an agent, who will deal with production of these next two efforts; I hope both out this year.

"In June I kicked out of my household and into college the last of my four children, Matthew (18) — full beard, hair to his waist, an Eagle Scout in love with the outdoors. Although I extolled the College, he pointed out to me that Columbia is proudly located in a 'city' with no adjacent mountain ranges. This fall he is off to Reed, in Oregon, where, I have determined, there is some semblance of a 'core' curriculum so all is not lost. He may be into Portland for the Great Northwest and the ubiquitous bars, but I still harbor hopes of an education for him.

"A final observation on the perverse consequences of pandemic: My wife, Laura, a family law attorney, has been swamped with work. It seems that closeness breeds contempt, which breeds marital strife. More subtle a fallout: parents moving kids between households suspect the rigor of Covid compliance practices of the other parent, and those differences also bring out the lawyers. Her phone rings at all hours."

Zev bar-Lev writes, "Inspired by a short talk at the Zoom luncheon on the possibilities for life in space, I gave a short talk at the next Zoom luncheon on my 'Magic Letters.' Magic Letters each have their own meanings, which in turn give 'Helpful Hints' about the whole word's meaning.

"Hebrew SHalom 'peace' and aMen 'agreed' are great examples. In Shalom, the MagLet Sh (think of Sh!) itself means 'peace and quiet, law and order' — so it is a helpful hint to the meaning of the whole word Shalom, just like English Shelter, Ship, Shirt, Shoes; and Russian Shinel 'overcoat,' Shapka 'cap,' and Chinese Shr 'ten, is, yes.' So MagLets help with the hardest part of Language Learning, vocabu-

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Update your address, email or phone; submit a Class Note, new book, photo, obituary or Letter to the Editor; or send us an email. Click "Contact Us" at **college.columbia.edu/cct.**

lary, showing fascinating Parallels between languages.

"The MagLet M means '(pull) together' as in Hebrew iM 'with' and aM 'people,' and the plural ending -iM as in Cherub-iM. Chinese has Min 'people' and the plural ending -Men in Haydz-Men 'children.'

"I've discovered some two dozen Universal MagLets. They are part of my Hebrew courses sold at Cognella Academic Publishing and used at two universities and accredited private courses."

See languagebazaar.com for more information.

Peter Broido reports, "I recently celebrated my 80th birthday. It was a very formal family affair with 6-, 7-, 9- and 10-year-old grandchildren, as well as their parents. The catered haute cuisine consisted of pizza and ice cream cake, thoroughly enjoyed. Fortunately we are all well, and we headed to the Delaware shore in July."

Ed Coller reports that efforts of the CU Band Alumni Association and the appropriate University departments to restart a marching/spirit band are still ongoing as of this past summer. Let's hope they're successful. I miss the "Cleverest Band."

Hank Davis recently finished co-producing an eight-CD box set by country singer Bobby Bare and renowned children's author and cartoonist Shel Silverstein. "The 130-page book that accompanies the music was really a labor of love," he says. "It's a feast of previously unpublished photos, and contains the recent interview I did with Bobby, now in his late 80s. These men had an unexpectedly deep friendship and enjoyed a rich musical collaboration. The project was issued by Bear Family Records in Germany, which has won numerous awards for the high quality of its archival productions. I'm really proud of this project."

Frank Sypher GSAS'68 notes he has written another New York history, *Register of Marriages from 1783 to 1905 in the Collegiate Churches of New York.* Edited by Francis J. Sypher, Jr. Published by the Collegiate Churches of New York, 2020. Also, an online, print-on-demand edition of the *Register* is published by Reformed Church Press, 2020.

"The *Register of Marriages from 1783 to 1905 in the Collegiate Churches of New York,* designated as Liber F in the Collegiate Archives, presents upward of 6,300 entries of marriages. These records provide vital statistical information from a period when there was, for the most part, relatively little official civil registration for marriages in New York.

"The primary aim of this edition is to present as far as possible an accurate record of the manuscript volume. However, from time to time when relevant background information is readily available, notes are given with historical details. The text is also accompanied by an introduction and an index to names and places.

"The *Register* includes Collegiate Church marriage data for people ranging from prominent figures such as J. Pierpont Morgan and others in government, the military and the professions, to mechanics, tradesmen, licensed cartmen and many other kinds of workers, men and women, in the city. In general, the data provide a vital snapshot of an important social cross-section of the New York City population during the period covered. The results should be of interest to anyone curious about people in New York."

I recently learned that **Joseph Frisch** died on November 10, 2020. He had lived in California for decades, and is survived by his wife, Sondra GSAS'69 (M.A. and incomplete Ph.D. from Columbia); son, Kevin; stepson, Steven; one grandchild; and two step-grandchildren. He had suffered for several years from a debilitating blood disease, which finally claimed him. Joe had worked in the computer/IT industry as a supervisor.

When you're back in NYC, you can reconnect with your classmates at our regular second-Thursday class lunches at the Columbia Club (we will still gather at the Princeton Club). We hope to meet again in the fall starting on September 9, and then on October 14, and on November 11. In any case, we will continue to meet virtually on Zoom every first and third Thursday at 12:30 p.m.

In the meantime, please let us know what you are up to, how you're doing and what's next. Stay safe!

1964

Norman Olch
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During the past 15 months I have started Class Notes expressing the hope that by the time the column appears in *Columbia College Today,* society's lot in the time of a pandemic will have improved. Alas, my hopes were dashed. More than 600,000 Americans have died from the virus, and many millions more are infected.

In my last note, written at the end of March, I mentioned that there are reasons for optimism: More and more people are being vaccinated. Now, as I write this at the end of June, there are more reasons for optimism here in New York City: Restaurants and theaters are opening, masking requirements are limited to certain places such as public buses and news reports say that the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines will provide more long-term protection than originally anticipated. I, however, remain cautious, particularly in light of reports about powerful new virus variants: While I remove my mask for walks in Central Park, I wear it in enclosed spaces such as elevators and supermarkets. I hope all of you are being careful.

A visit to the Whitney Museum of American Art in lower Manhattan reminded me of one of the tragic public events of our College years: the September 15, 1963, bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Ala., which killed four young Black girls, and was followed hours later by the killing of two young Black boys. I went to the Whitney to see the exhibition of Dawoud Bey's photographs. In one room were the diptychs from his 2012 *Birmingham Project,* which marked the 50th anniversary of the bombing. Each diptych has one photographic portrait of a young person the same age as one of the victims, and another portrait of an adult 50 years older — the victim's age in 2013 if she or he had survived. It is a powerful memorial to the victims, and a rumination on the passage of time and the meaning of innocent young lives cut short. The portraits also immediately brought to mind that only two months later we shared with the nation a second tragic public event: the assassination of President Kennedy.

On a lighter museum note: *The New York Times* had a wonderful story on the Alice Neel painting exhibition at the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the role **Allen Tobias** played in Neel's now famous double portrait of brothers Jeff Neal and Toby Neal, who were 8 and 9 when Neel painted them in the early 1960s. Allen had met Neel through a mutual friend, had befriended the Neal brothers while a summer playground teacher on West 145th Street and introduced them to Neel for what turned out to be several sittings. The full story of the painting and Allen's search for it (written by John Leland '81) can be found online: nyti.ms/3BxHciD. [Editor's note: Read more about Neel's many Columbia connections in *CCT*'s online exclusive, "Alice Neel's Columbia Paintings": columbia.edu/cct/issue/springsummer-2021/article/alice-neels-columbia-paintings.]

Jeff Newman writes: "My children in Los Angeles, New Orleans and San Francisco are all well, thank goodness, and moving forward. My daughter, Andrea, mother of a 17-year-old and 13-year-old, is executive producer and writer of the television show *Chicago Fire,* which is on NBC on Wednesday nights; my son David '02, father of an 8-year-old and a 6-year-old, continues his medical consultancy work; and my son Matthew is a professional baseball umpire and a bartender in the Bay area. The pandemic, however, has kept everyone apart for more than a year, as is true, I'm sure, for everyone else. Hope to start to travel to see them all by the fall."

Ivan Weissman reports that his son Jesse has graduated from the NYU School of Law, will work for a major New York law firm and is engaged to Emily Kling, whom he met in his freshman year at Cornell when they won their first competition as debate team teammates.

There are tentative signs that the informal class lunch in New York on the second Thursday of each month will resume in the fall as the Princeton Club (where we hold the lunch) begins to reopen. Your classmates want to hear from you, so write, and be well.

1965

Leonard B. Pack
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Dan Hofstadter '66's review of *The Florentines,* a new book by Paul Strathern, appeared in *The Wall Street Journal* on June 25. Read it online: on.wsj.com/3eMuYZH.

Mike Cook, who sent me Dan's piece, provided a brief review-of-the-review: "Makes you want to rush out and buy the book. He was not reviewing books 60 years ago in our Literature Humanities class but he did bother the famous Kenneth Koch."

Speaking of Florence and the Italian Renaissance, I reported in my Spring/Summer 2021 column that **Larry Guido** PS'69, PS'71 and his partner, Judith Kaplan, had purchased an apartment in the Palazzo Tornabuoni in Florence but that Larry was worried that the pandemic would prevent them from actually going there. He provided a brief update: "After this past year and a half of lockdown at Ocean Reef, Fla., Judy and I are back traveling again." They are at their new apartment now, "probably through November." He signed his note, "Lorenzo and Giuditta."

Sadly, news that we lost two classmates arrived recently.

Dan Carlinsky JRN'66 emailed on May 8 that **Edwin Goodgold** had died the night before: "He had been recovering nicely from back surgery a couple of weeks ago. Most of yesterday, however, he was feeling sub-par, and he died in bed near midnight. His death was apparently cardiac-related. As anyone who receives this email knows, Ed was one of a kind, a force of nature."

Ed and Dan coauthored a bunch of trivia-related books and started the tradition of trivia contests at Columbia, including a memorable encore at our 50th reunion. Ed managed the band Sha Na Na and was at the 1969 Woodstock festival with them. He was devoutly religious and a warm and generous friend to many. If any reader has recollections to share, please send them to me for a future column. [Editor's note: See "Obituaries."]

Overdue news that **Alan Green** died in his home on Thanksgiving Day (November 26) 2020. Alan was the Raymond Sobel Professor of Psychiatry and served as chair of the Department of Psychiatry at the Geisel School of Medicine and Dartmouth-Hitchcock (D-H) for nearly 18 years. Alan's family held a Zoom memorial service on November 29, and **Jim Siegel** sent me a copy of the remarks he delivered:

"I've known Alan for 59 years — since our freshman year at Columbia in 1961. He and I were fraternity brothers and members of a group called the Van Am Society along with **Ben Cohen** and **Pelle D'Acierno,** who are both attending this service.

"The four of us lived together during our junior and senior years in a two-bedroom apartment on Riverside Drive, close to school, where we paid rent of $225 per month — in total. I noticed a few years ago that our very apartment, many years after the building went co-op, changed hands for $1.67 million.

"The four of us had an overflowingly pleasurable time together. We were serious students who could close our books and have fun. Lifetime friendships emerged from what seems in retrospect like a dalliance in Shangri-La.

"Alan had a formidable mind. He was equally interested in the basic sciences, the social sciences and the humanities, a rare trifecta. He knew he wanted to become a doctor — his father was a doctor and his two brothers also became doctors — but he wanted a well-rounded education.

"The four of us were living together when John F. Kennedy was assassinated in 1963. We were disconsolate; he was our hope, inspiration and role model. A group of us went to a nearby church with Pelle to huddle and pray together in a sacred space. I hope the rabbi doesn't mind I said that. Alan had a truly catholic mind — catholic with a small 'c' — I hope the rabbi doesn't mind I said that either.

"I always had the sense that Alan wanted to use his prodigious talents to help make the world a better place. In his junior year, he won a fellowship and spent the summer in Yugoslavia. I remember how easily he acclimated to a country with relatively rudimentary living conditions, and how enthusiastic he was about the walled city of Dubrovnik. After graduating from Columbia College, he spent the summer doing education and civil rights work in Mississippi, skirting danger at one point. We all cared about civil rights issues but Alan was the one among us who headed South. [**Jerry Babbitt, Leonard Pack** and Nancy "Duffy" Campbell BC'65 were also in Mississippi with Alan that summer.]

"When I think of Alan, a word that comes to mind is that he was propelled — driving but also driven to make the most of his time and his ability. In the early '70s he was affiliated with a Harvard hospital and was at the same time working in the White House on Nixon's so-called 'War on Drugs.' His interest was the necessity for the program, of course, not the administration of Tricky Dick.

"The driving/driven duality reminds me of Alan's driving habits behind a steering wheel. Always a fast driver, he had the curious habit, when approaching a toll, of slamming on the brakes at the last possible second. I don't think he knew that had become his modus operandi.

"Alan was a very loyal friend. When I needed to consult with him over the years on family health issues of one kind or another, he was always there for me. As busy as he was, he always called back immediately and gave me as much time as I needed. Just hearing him on the other end of the line was healing. Just knowing I could call him, even if I didn't, was a tonic.

"Alan married and became a father later than most of us. Maybe he knew something we didn't know. In all of our conversations he enthused about Franny, and then Henry ['16] and Isobel. He poured his considerable capacity for love into them.

"I sent Alan an email tribute last month in which I said that Ben, Pelle and I will undoubtedly develop a ritual to salute you — not just because of your mettle as a person or that our roots are intertwined, but because you had a low threshold for filth and did all the cleaning in our apartment. I also told Alan he had earned my highest accolade: He had lived a life of integrity; he was always true to himself.

"Alan achieved ripeness in his life, a rare accomplishment, and that's probably why he could face death with such equanimity. Whoever's ripe is naturally ready to move to the concluding stage of life."

[Editor's note: See "Obituaries."]

We also had a false alarm. *The New York Times* published an obituary of a Columbia alumnus with the same name (and of a similar age) as one of our classmates. With due respect to the deceased Columbian, and with some trepidation, I wrote to **Michael Friedman,** who, happily, responded that he is alive and well:

"Thanks for your concern, but I am happy to inform you that the reports of my death are premature. I understand why you might have thought this could have been me, but this must have been one of the other many Michael Friedmans who were at Columbia. I believe that when I arrived on campus, I was the seventh Michael Friedman enrolled. So, no need to update your column for *Columbia College Today.*"

Michael had sent me a social justice piece in April; I'll take this opportunity to share it with you:

"Author Unknown:

"I need to drive my two-year-old to daycare tomorrow morning. To ensure we arrive alive, we won't take public transit (Oscar Grant). I removed all air fresheners from the vehicle and double-checked my registration status (Daunte Wright), and ensured my license plates were visible (Lt. Caron Nazario). I will be careful to follow all traffic rules (Philando Castile), signal every turn (Sandra Bland), keep the radio volume low (Jordan Davis), and won't stop at a fast food chain for a meal (Rayshard Brooks). I'm too afraid to pray (Rev. Clementa C. Pickney) so I just hope the car won't break down (Corey Jones).

"When my wife picks him up at the end of the day, I'll remind her not to dance (Elijah McClain), stop to play in a park (Tamir Rice), patronize the local convenience store for snacks (Trayvon Martin), or walk around the neighborhood (Mike Brown). Once they are home, we won't stand in our backyard (Stephon Clark), eat ice cream on the couch (Botham Jean), or play any video games (Atatiana Jefferson).

"After my wife and I tuck him into bed around 7:30 p.m., neither of us will leave the house to go to Walmart (John Crawford III) or to the gym (Tshyrad Oates) or on a jog (Ahmaud Arbery). We won't even walk to see the birds (Christian Cooper). We'll just sit and try not to breathe (George Floyd) and not to sleep (Breonna Taylor)."

1966

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

Hello, CC'66! Here is the latest from some of your classmates. Thanks to all who replied to *CCT*'s call for news.

Calvin H. Johnson writes: "I gave a talk, 'Reflections on Combat in Vietnam,' for our Zoomed 55th reunion. I was assigned to an infantry reconnaissance platoon in 1967–68 that had a

death rate of better than 50 percent, lost to snipers and massive fire from the wood line and mines, but I am not sure I ever saw a live Viet Cong. The United States could blow up any football field-sized area if we could map it, which was sometimes handy, but I don't think a 'sweep' ever accomplished anything. Since I survived it, it was not uninteresting. Email me at cjohnson@law.utexas.edu if you would like to see the full writeup."

Michael Garrett notes: "The turn-out for our 55th virtual reunion was disappointing in numbers but entirely successful in the quality of our events and the participation of those who were brave enough to weather the rigors of Zoom. **David Gilbert, Dan Gardner, Kai Lee, Calvin H. Johnson, Randy Bourscheidt** and **Ira Katznelson** each delivered well-prepared, thoughtful and thought-provoking talks. Videos of those talks are available at college.columbia.edu/alumni/reunion/2021/watch. Participation in our Class Gift far exceeded attendance at reunion and resulted in a $151,537 gift from 111 classmates. Let's all try to stay healthy, safe and sane, so we can convene in person for our 60th."

From **Sylvain Cappell:** "A happy occasion for my writing is that two of my grandchildren are now undergraduates at Columbia: Jonathan Cappell SEAS'24 and his sister Julia Cappell '25. Both are planning to major in math. Another granddaughter, Liora Eiger, is a sophomore at NYU.

"I was born in 1946 in Brussels, to parents who were Holocaust survivors there and who married after the war. My parental family immigrated to the U.S. in 1950 and settled in NYC. I graduated from Bronx Science in 1963 and was originally in the Columbia College Class of 1967, but I graduated in three years. At Columbia I had wonderful professors in humanities (e.g., studied Middle English) and of course, mathematics, and was mentored by one of the great mathematicians of the 20th century, Samuel Eilenberg. I completed my Ph.D. at Princeton in 1969 and then taught there to the mid-'70s. I then moved to the Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences of NYU and still am there as the Julius Silver Professor. I've been a Sloan Foundation fellow and a Guggenheim Foundation fellow. At NYU I've chaired the Faculty Senate a couple of times.

"My primary field of research is geometric topology but I've also worked on its relations to algebra, analysis, algebraic and differential geometry and so on. I'm a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and of the American Mathematical Society, of which I was VP and received its Award for Distinguished Public Service. I've often mentored math students from high schools, college, graduate school and postdocs. I've been, and am, blessed with wonderful students, colleagues and research collaborators. I've been an academic visitor at Harvard a couple of years, at the Institute for Advanced Study, at Penn, at the Institut des Hautes Etudes Scientifiques in France, at the University of Chicago and at the Weizmann Institute in Israel, and long served on the external review committees of many institutions, including Princeton, Caltech and Penn, and long served on the Scientific Advisory Committee of the Rothschild Foundation, in Jerusalem. These experiences were enhanced by my being fluent in French and Hebrew.

"In 1966 I married my high school sweetheart, Amy Hoffman BC'67, who also graduated from Bronx Science. We have four children and four grandchildren, all living nearby in the New York region. Amy is retired from having long taught art (art history, painting and computer graphics) at Stuyvesant H.S. We live in an NYU apartment in Greenwich Village and have a (mostly for summers) getaway cottage on a lake in Connecticut, to which we decamped during the pandemic. We recently celebrated our 55th anniversary."

Alan Feldman GSAS'69 shares an update: "I retired in 2008 from full-time teaching at Framingham (Mass.) State University where, for a while, I was chair of English and VP of the faculty union. With the windfall of free time that followed I could devote myself ever more single-mindedly to poetry. The resulting collection, *Immortality,* won the 2016 Massachusetts Book Award for Poetry; another collection, *The Golden Coin,* came out in 2018. I also narrowed the focus of my teaching to poetry writing, even teaching on a cruise ship while my wife, Nan Hass Feldman — the main attraction — taught art, offering free workshops at the local library in Wellfleet, where I live during the summer, and in Framingham.

"In the corner of my study is a drawing **Edward 'Rusty' Spaeth** made of me as a young poet (pipe in mouth). Occasionally I address this portrait and report on how I'm doing. In a poem he wrote at 17 — about reading his fortune at the bottom of a cup of cocoa — he said:

The author was to die
In exultation
Where an exploding cloud passed
Into the upper atmosphere on the cup's rim.
"How many books will I write?" the author asked
His wife, for he was blind
Surrounded by her arms; she came
To read the signs for both of them.

"Your books are all these vacant ponds,
The first and third
Are the greatest, the second small an near
The bottom, but the fourth has the look
Of ending happily." The author was amused
That in brown fortune, this girl too
Took them to be the largest things.
Children were the size of peas
And lives were rivulets, yet these
Possessed the magnitude of olives. "Only four,"
She apologized. But he who knelt
In hugging her young thighs
Adored the way her skin felt
And was delighted.

"Children (I have two, grown up) loom much larger than peas in one's life, I'd tell him. As for 'ending happily,' that's something books sometimes do. Still, I keep writing — it's part of my psychic metabolism — for the readers who may wish to know what people found to care about back then, when I lived."

Dan Gover is "currently writing about Willie Mays and the New York Giants, collecting stories like this: When Mays came up to the Giants in early 1951, he didn't hit at first. The pressure was causing him to press. His manager Leo Durocher boosted his confidence and told him to pull up his pants. Not for style, but because his pants leg down near his ankles led umps to believe his strike zone was as low as his pants leg. They were calling low strikes on him. He also told Willie to stop pulling the ball and hit to right field. Both right and left fields were short in the Polo Grounds, the Giants's home park. Willie took Durocher's advice and started to hit. The Giants started to win and finally tied the Dodgers in the pennant race two days before the end of the season.

"I'd be interested in hearing any more good stories about Mays, Durocher and the Giants: dgover@kean.edu."

Neal Hurwitz writes: "After a terrific Zoom meeting with [Professor] Mark Kesselman on June 24, the 55th anniversary of MK's great 'Senior Seminar' on local politics, we have started a bimonthly Mark Kesselman Zoom 'seminar.' With MK on June 24 were **Barry Coller, Mark Levine, Jonathan Blank, Tom Harrold, Joel Blau** and me. All are returning for the bimonthly Kesselman Zoom! Anyone interested can participate; email neal.hurwitz@gmail.com, please.

"We were very sad to lose another Kesselman '65–'66 seminar alum, **Nick Weiskopf** LAW'69, who died on January 19, 2021. Nick was a math genius, great lawyer-educator and a fair poker player :). His obituary in the Spring/Summer 2021 issue shows 'a life worth living.' With his colleagues, friends and family, we miss him!"

Dr. **John E. Harrington** says: "It is with great sadness that I report the death of **Daniel R. Seigle** on June 24, 2021, in Las Vegas. I do not know the cause but spoke with him right up to the last day and then heard from his brother that he had died."

From **John Doody:** "With great sadness I report that **Ken Pearson** died on April 5, 2021, aged 76 and after a three-week hospital stay with a heart problem. Ken is survived by his wife, Muriel; son, Carl; and brother Greg. He was predeceased by his brother Richard '65.

"Ken was my freshman-year roommate in Carman Hall (née New Hall) in 1962 and we remained good friends over the subsequent almost six decades. He retired at 66 from a successful career in hospital management. In addition to having more time for Muriel and Carl, his new life included golf at his Tuxedo Club, fishing with Greg on Cape Cod and spending roughly a week a month at



NATALIE BOTHA

At the 1967 Lightweight Crew Informal Get-Together on June 24 in Barnard, Vt., were (left to right) Diane Chattman, Robert Chapla '68, Lenice Cicchini, Gerry Botha '67, Susan Botha, Eve Pranis, Bob Malsberger SEAS'67, Bruce Chattman '67 and David Blanchard '67.

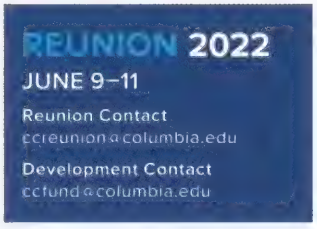
his Fort Lauderdale 'time share,' i.e., his own bedroom in my home.

"Ken was fiercely competitive ... he won a golf tournament in fall 2019. He was always a friend when needed, which for me was often. His heart might have been his physical weakness, but it was his source of strength in his interpersonal relationships. Always open-minded and willing to offer advice when asked, I never heard him utter a cruel or nasty word about anyone. For the last 10 years we were roommates again, at least on a monthly basis. With all the memories and shared bad jokes, it was like there were no interim years at all. I miss Ken."

Best wishes for a happy and healthy fall, CC'66. This column still needs a class correspondent. If you are interested in connecting, and reconnecting, with classmates and sharing their news in this column, please send a note to cct@columbia.edu with the subject line "CC'66 class correspondent." (Never fear: You'll get lots of assistance from the *CCT* staff.)

In the meantime, send us notes about what you have been up to via the same email address, or use the Class Notes webform (college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note). Photos and captions should be submitted using the Class Notes photo webform (college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo).

1967



Albert Zonana
az164@caa.columbia.edu

We heard from several classmates since the last issue.

Peter Basilevsky LAW'72 wrote: "I retired from the practice of corporate law in January 2016 as a partner and then counsel at my firm, Satterlee Stephens Burke & Burke, after 48 years at the firm and its many iterations. I was married to my lovely and brilliant wife, Bette Nyhlen '70 Vassar, for almost 49 wonderful years, and we had two great kids who in turn each had two remarkable children. Sadly, Bette passed away last April after a lengthy illness. After almost 25 years living in New York City and subsequently an almost equal amount of time in Cos Cob, Conn., upon my retirement we moved to Newtown Square, Pa., to be close to our son and his family. I try to remain in touch with my brothers at Phi Gamma Delta, including Greg Stern GS'68, Bruce Sargent '66 and Robert Chapla '68. All in all, to paraphrase the title of the movie, it's been a wonderful life."

Art Garfinkel: "I live in Southern California, practice orthopedic surgery on a part-time basis and still love it. My wife, Sandy BC'71, remains the rock of our family. I love talking shop with my daughter, Rachel '14, an orthopedic surgery resident, and world affairs with my son, David LAW'13, a New York City attorney working at the mayor's office. I would love to hear from my lightweight football buddies. We weren't very good, but we were, in fact, the only football team to beat Princeton."

David Blanchard: "We had a lovely get together with a few classmates and wives on June 24, at Susan and **Gerry Botha**'s home in Barnard, Vt. **Bob Malsberger SEAS'67,** who lives in Jamaica Plain, near Boston, made the trip to Vermont to visit with a few of his lightweight crew mates and take in our lush, verdant spring scenery. In addition to Bob, Gerry and Susan, and my wife, Eve, and I, Robert Chapla '68 along with his wife, Lenice Cicchini, and **Bruce Chattman** with his wife, Diane, made the trip to Barnard for a delightful afternoon."

See the nearby photo!

Eric Dannemann: "We continue to communicate with classmates and teammates from classes on either side of us whom we met on the lightweight crew. **Gerry Botha** keeps the list, which had grown to about 60, and sadly is down to about 55. Each of us has a story, every one more engaging than the last. I will leave it up to each of them to tell their individual stories, and I hope they will in future *CCT*s. This spring we invited Coach Nich Lee Parker to join us by Zoom and share with us the tribulations of the past year and the prospects for the coming year. Participating have been **Jeff Brensilver, Dave Blanchard, Gerry Botha, Bruce Chattman, Mike Ingber, Marty Goldstein, Bob Malsberger SEAS'67, Bob Mauri, Jim Menasian** and Richie Miller."

Harold Jawetz: "Covid-19 made me do it. I have not been sick but it forced me to do telehealth for months. It was interesting for two weeks but quickly lost its allure and made me realize that I preferred to see patients face-to-face in the office. Now, 50 years after graduating from medical school, I have decided that it is time to retire and enjoy"

Romolo Maurizi: "I am doing well, as is my family. I have three grandsons and a granddaughter. Luckily the virus has left us alone. At 76, still playing soccer twice a week, I'm the oldest on the field. We have been playing maskless since last August. Regards to you and all classmates. I would love for my teammates to contact me."

Anthony Gronowicz: "My latest book, *Last Western Empire. A History of U.S. Foreign Policy,* is out. I am associate editor of the *Journal of Labor and Society* and an adjunct full professor of political science at the Borough of Manhattan Community College and CUNY Brooklyn College."

Doug Good: "After a 10-year stint as a legal services attorney in Rockland County, N.Y., and 40 years as a commercial litigator and law firm partner on Long Island, I am now what I describe as 'mostly retired.' Summers in the Berkshires (reminiscent of my summer camp days), and otherwise on Long Island, where the grandkids are."

Peter Engel: "I'm a cardiologist in a large community hospital in Cincinnati, specializing in a rare condition, pulmonary hypertension. Father to three wonderful wiener dogs. I plan to work a few more years before retiring. I'm so glad I got to see the '60s and the '70s because the future is looking kind of grim!"

Gino Sermoneta: "I've been selling real estate in Northern Westchester. Busy as can be, and loving it. After being in manufacturing and in retail in NYC since graduation, I moved to the North Salem/Bedford/Somers area in the late '90s and became a Realtor. I enjoy the challenges of helping buyers and sellers with their real estate needs, and I'm still at it and going strong."

Charles Saydah: "I've joined a biweekly gathering of 10 classmates for an hour or so of chat. The talk is mainly politics and current events. Only one of us, **Jeff Herrmann,** came to Morningside in 1963 from well outside the New York-New Jersey-Connecticut metro area, from Wisconsin. **Arnold Bodner** came from suburban Jersey, where he still lives and practices medicine. The rest of us all came from Queens or Brooklyn, out of general district

high schools. **Bill Anscher** and **Tony Greco,** from Queens; others from Brooklyn, **Mel Brender** (Midwood), **Bill Heinbach** and **Ken Kramer** (Lafayette), **Alan Sachs** (John Jay), **Ira Krakow** (Lincoln) and me (Fort Hamilton). So nearly 60 years after we first gathered on Manhattan's Upper West Side — 60 years of doing this and that and traveling all over the world; 60 years of marriages, children, and, in some cases, deaths; 60 years of life — we're right back in the old neighborhood, hanging out, shooting the breeze. It feels like we're extras in a *Marty* revival."

Gary Sanders: "After getting a Ph.D. from MIT in 1971 in high-energy physics, I spent the next 23 years in that field as an assistant professor at Princeton and at Los Alamos National Lab, experimenting at Fermilab, CERN and Brookhaven and culminating as the project manager of one of the two collider detectors at the Superconducting Super Collider. Congress terminated the SSC. Not choosing to then move with my colleagues to CERN to continue that work, I went to Caltech as the project manager of the Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory, and that worked out well with the first direct detection of gravitational waves. I continued from Caltech as the project manager of the Thirty Meter Telescope and retired from that early this year after 16 years leading that project.

"We live in Laguna Beach and also spend time at our home in Santa Fe. My retirement is with my wonderful wife, Marjorie, who has put up with me for 48 years, and we have recently had our first grandchild. Despite all the fun of retirement, I joined the leadership of the Simons Observatory, a bold search for signs of cosmic inflation in the very early universe, and under construction at 17,000 ft. in the Chilean mountains. It was a short retirement!"

Steven Allen: "My Columbia experience has served me well, first in an enjoyable career and now in a satisfying retirement. I was among the first practitioners to work with models for valuing and managing new financial derivative instruments. Over nearly 40 years, mostly with JPMorgan Chase and its predecessor firms, I initially headed a model development group and later was in charge of evaluating and controlling the risks associated with these models. I transitioned to being a faculty member at NYU's Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences, where I taught and helped manage its master's program in the mathematics of finance. Much of my time in retirement has been involved, along with my wife, Caroline Thompson, with a peer-to-peer lifelong learning program, Quest Lifelong Learning Community, whose members are free to develop courses in any topic in which they are interested. The Core Curriculum has proved most valuable as background for learning about and teaching a wide range of subjects from history to philosophy to psychology to physics, along with my beloved mathematics."

Rich Frances: "I have had an interesting career in addiction psychiatry and as emeritus president and medical director of Silver Hill Hospital. I co-founded and was the founding president of the American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry. I have a small practice and enjoy spending more time with grandchildren."

Be well, all of you, and do write.

[Editor's note: Columbia Reunion 2022, for classes ending in 2 and 7, and the Class of 2021, is scheduled for June 9–11. Watch your mailbox and inbox for more information!]

1968

Arthur Spector
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Warm hello from Miami Beach, where as I write in June the summer heat is beginning to show up. The Columbia football season is around the corner. Heard from a few of us:

Gordon Harriss LAW'71 was observing some issues on the economic front; he sounds great. It seems Law School grads are in the news everywhere. Heard from **Robert Brandt** LAW'71; he is doing great and was in Chicago visiting with one of his sons. And heard from **Al Ballinger** LAW'71, BUS'72, whom Brandt says he called "Ally B" at the Law School. Al lives in West Palm, where he plays tennis, swims at the Breakers and has horses he sees daily; clearly a hobby in Weston. I was joking with them about Brandt, Ballinger and President Lee C. Bollinger being Law School classmates. I am probably missing another classmate with a B. **Andy Herz** LAW'71 ... nah, that doesn't work.

I have chatted a good bit recently with **Arthur Kaufman** LAW'71, who is "happily retired in Scarsdale and enjoying walking, swimming and my four grandkids." He adds that he is beginning his 20th year as a member of the adjunct professor group at the Law School. He and his wife, Susan Kaufman BC'68, LAW'71, celebrated their 50th reunion at the Law School. Congrats!

And then there is **Neil Anderson** LAW'71, who after law school went to Sullivan & Cromwell, and **Paul de Bary** LAW'71, BUS'71, who is an entrepreneur now, having been a gem of a municipal finance lawyer at Hawkins (renowned in my world and a banker and advisor).

I usually don't mention departures, but **Seth Weinstein** recently lost his dad, Jack Weinstein LAW'49, a Lion on the bench and a professor at the Law School. He was known to be an amazing judge and professor. Aged 99 and a half; we now have a record to exceed. Condolences to Seth and his family.

I heard from **Lenny Oppenheim** briefly but he owes me more. Lenny and his wife, Dena, did get sick from Covid-19 but are doing great now.

Frank Dann PS'72 reports from sunny Hawaii. He started out noting **Ken Tomecki** PS'72's role as president of the American Academy of Dermatology this year, and salutes Ken, as we all do, of course. Frank adds that his 50th P&S reunion is approaching. He writes, "As our class reunion co-chair, I will be in New York in April. Will visit the main campus on 116th Street, of course. It is a long haul from Honolulu to NYC but this is gonna be a big deal! To add to that excitement, my med school class is having a pre-reunion weeklong party here on Kauai in February, a first of its kind. Perfect weather for golf and swimming."

Frank is planning a 19-day cruise from Miami this Christmas so I hope to see him.

He finishes with: "I thank the Lord daily for all my blessings, and right up there is my great good fortune to have attended Columbia for eight years. Opened so many doors for me I can't even imagine."

He adds he doesn't feel 74, which is the new 44, for sure.

Frank is still swimming: "It is who I am; a combo of ocean and pool swimming." **Neil Gozan** also is still swimming. Frank does 4 miles a week. Hawaii's ocean temperature is 78 degrees F year-round.

Frank, I try to swim every day. I find it helps me enjoy the day. I also walk a lot, jog a little and go to the gym. Some of you might remember that at our 50th reunion **Nigel Paneth** highly recommended exercise, and **Tom Sanford** years earlier at a reunion stood up and said the same. For some of us it is a challenge to swim or get exercise in, but for sure it is a good way to spend some time. **Arthur Kaufman** tries to swim year-round too ... but he doesn't have Hawaii or Miami Beach.

I was happy to hear from **Tony Kao** and **George Ting.** I am, it appears, an unreliable reporter, as I guess I got the **Randy Vaughan** BUS'70 story wrong in the Spring/Summer 2021 issue (but I believe I did get the Istanbul part of the story right).

From Tony: "I just read the Spring/Summer 2021 Class Notes. I'm glad you had the chance to connect with many classmates, including my college roommates (at different times) **Randy Vaughan** and **George Ting.** Maybe I can update you on the past and what's happening now.

"Randy spent his junior year mostly in Beirut, Lebanon, and probably not Istanbul. Yes, he did total his car that he got anew, thinking he would become James Bond II in exciting Beirut — he believes that someone ambushed him and planted a bomb in his car. The car was not a Porsche, but was a Jaguar XKE, you know, the flashy car that looks like it's going 100 MPH even when stopped at a light. Actually, he had consulted me on whether he should ask to get a Mercedes 230SL or the Jaguar XKE, a serious problem and decision he had to make at the end of his sophomore year at the College.

"And, yes, I moved to Sudbury, Mass., 20 minutes west of Arlington, your hometown, two years ago from Seattle and Tokyo. I had just completed a small project for George in 2019. He called me one day in late 2016 from California and said he was looking for an architect to work on his pet project, in one of the nicest parts of Tokyo. The building, which includes his penthouse apartment, was handed over in 2019,

but I don't think he got the chance to enjoy living there for any length of time because of the Covid-19 situation that ensued. He actually resides in the Bay Area, and used to visit Tokyo only once in a while when things were normal. I enjoyed working with George on the project, and we came together often during the design and construction stages.

"Things are good here in the peaceful suburb of Boston, where my daughter's family and my grandson live about 10 minutes away. But when things get better in NYC, I wouldn't mind returning to the Big Apple for some good dining and fun. Randy said he'd join me, and maybe George might even show up if we press him a bit."

I like the idea of a pre-reunion event. I am thinking of organizing an event in Miami. If you like palm trees, warm weather and beaches, send me a note on the topic. I hope you are well, ambulatory and in good humor.

I have come to know Peter Hiebert '71, from a class that boasts a marginal group of talent, unlike our class He lives in Miami Beach some of the time and has been a prominent member of the Washington. D.C., legal community and a big fan of Columbia football. Peter urges everyone to watch Al Bagnoli's student-athletes.

I also keep in touch with **Hollis Petersen** BUS'73. I hope to see him and his wife, Ann, in Key West. Alas, maybe this winter. I saw Hollis at a football game many years ago. He also has a place in Greenwich, where he was before heading to Newport for the summer. In the Keys, Hollis is involved with the Everglades Foundation, which has been successful in getting reservoirs started below Lake Okeechobee to regulate the flow of fresh water into the Florida Bay, and much more.

Maybe Homecoming, Hollis? I am going to be there (Saturday, October 16) and hope you will be, too.

Hoping everyone is well. We were the most exceptional group to arrive on campus in modern times, for sure!

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1969

Nathaniel Wander
nw105@caa.columbia.edu

Joel Solkoff is a writer with interests in architecture and in food policy, and "a disability rights advocate and how." His website, joelsolkoff.com/about-me, notes: "One consequence of the treatment for cancer that saved my life was that radiation permanently damaged my spine. For over twenty years, I have been a paraplegic — not in a wheelchair but in a battery-powered mobility device which takes me so rapidly to my destination that friends and strangers on the street comment on the speed."

Joel followed this with something about virginity, its loss and the dormitory policies of Barnard and Columbia, the details of which I expect *CCT* would have edited out anyway. He continues: "While I did miserably in Latin and Hebrew, I did perfect the art of demonstrating. I lived for a week in Grayson Kirk's office after the Rembrandt was returned to the police and after his Havana cigars were smoked. Alas."

Joel is proud of having been arrested not once but twice during the occupations.

He adds: "I am 73, which seems improbable. We Baby Boomers were, it seemed, forever young. I ain't young anymore. I am a grandfather of four (read: Zeyda). I have four teeth."

Joel concludes: "I am currently an architecture critic for e-architect UK." He refers us to his piece on the Penn Station redevelopment: bit.ly/3wYZrdo.

Despite advancing years, Dr. **Neal Handel** actively pursues a plastic surgery practice from his office in Beverly Hills while being a clinical professor in the UCLA Medical School Department of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, supervising senior residents undergoing aesthetic surgery training. Having had his first child at 57, Neal says he is fortunate to now have five: Madeleine (3), Liam (5), Hunter (15), Hendrix (16) and Brooke-Lynn (17). With the younger children aspiring to matriculate into preschool, the older are now applying to colleges, their sights set on Columbia.

This issue's "The Things They Carried" encouraged reports from classmates who didn't graduate in spring '69.

Neal finds time to connect on a regular basis with **William Stadiem**, who describes himself as "a Hollywood chronicler and restaurant critic." The two are often seen sharing a meal and reminiscing about their Columbia days at some of Los Angeles's trendiest eateries.

I've remained friends with Randy Mound '70 since the lights came back on after an 8 a.m. art history class and we found ourselves slumped over the intervening desk.

Randy writes: "It amazes me that it's been 50 years and counting since I graduated from Columbia College — it doesn't seem all that long ago since the common refrain was 'Never trust anyone over 30.' My memories of those years and the adventures I had are fairly clear, except for the fact that it was the '60s and my contemporaries will remember (or not) what that means. [It's often been said, 'If you remember the '60s, you weren't there.'] Recently I read a stream-of-consciousness autobiography written by [James Wisniewski] and found myself nodding in recognition at descriptions of Hartley Hall dorm life and neighborhood hangouts like The Gold Rail and The West End.

"What followed college was far less exciting and much more conventional. I attended New York Medical College and graduated in 1974. I moved to L.A. because it seemed less crowded and competitive than New York (ha!) and spent seven years at LAC + USC Medical Center, first as an internal medicine intern and resident and then as a radiology resident and fellow. I partnered for 25 years in a radiology group, covering several L.A. hospitals and imaging centers.

"I lived in various parts of L.A., eventually ending up on an island on an artificial lake in Ventura, complete with a dock and an electric party boat. When I became an older dad to twin boys and realized that L.A. might not be the best place to raise kids, I moved to Denver so that my sons could grow up in a healthier environment. After eight years with a group here I retired five years ago and, with my new wife, moved into an over-55 community near Boulder. These days walking the dog is as exciting as it gets; I quite like that. I work a few days a month at Denver Health Medical Center for fun."

I last saw Moshe Tov (Peter) Kreps in Oregon in summer 1971. He says: "Inspired by Israeli music performances and Jewish spirituality while living in California in the '90s, I moved to Tzfat (Safed), Israel, an ancient reservoir of Jewish and Arabic culture and spirituality in the Upper Galilee. There, under the further influence of South American plant medicines, I founded the culture and performance venue Khan of the White Donkey in 2010, and in 2016, the Maqamat Music Center and School of Eastern Music as a platform for the performance and teaching of a wide range of Middle Eastern musics. Beyond musical goals, these projects intend to bridge the numerous local and intersecting foreign cultures. My other strong interest is in psychedelic medicine and therapies for mental and physical health. I helped establish research studies in Israel leading to acceptance and legalization of these substances for medical and personal use. My daughter and granddaughter live in Berkeley, Calif., my former home."

William Rosenbaum was a close Stuyvesant H.S. friend: our first Columbia adventure came during the Dean's Day reception, when the 'Hooray Henry' behind us in the receiving line left me wondering whether I shouldn't have elected Brooklyn College after all.

Bill writes: "I entered with the Class of 1969, stayed almost one year, rooming on campus. It was very much the '60s, and although not interested in the more potent experience-enhancing substances, which were not impossible to locate, I managed to participate. I did not manage to be a diligent student, however. I left to write poetry and explore the other coast. Fast forward

several years: I found that I had developed an interest in building things and was determined to become an engineer. My financial situation had changed, and I enrolled in the CCNY Grove School of Engineering, which was still tuition-free. I lived in squalor in Hell's Kitchen and finally graduated as an engineer. I found out that, if you do not make a point of touting your lack of experience and skills, people will let you tackle whatever you like. I learned a lot of real-world stuff, proceeding to a 45-year career ranging from office work, to construction supervision, to commissioning, to department management, to vice presidency, still not letting on about my experience and knowledge deficits.

"Not incidentally, I got married, have two children, am divorced and, slow learner that I am, still consult in my chosen field. Best thing in my life: happy children. Worst thing: unhappy children. Go figure."

David Powell, my first College roommate, left in our sophomore year to pursue an early love, working with horses, his studies "already taking second position to riding commitments on Long Island."

Via a stint in Newmarket, Suffolk, England, David returned to his stepfather's homeland, France, in 1971, "where I did the officers' course at the French National Stud after working with various trainers. From there, I began to manage a nearby stud, simultaneously developing a career as a turf journalist specializing in the study of pedigrees. In 1976, I set up on my own and 'bought the farm' in 1981, breeding thoroughbreds there until my son Richard took it over in 2016."

David developed an international reputation as "an equine journalist, breeder and bloodstock agent, serving as a breeder who pretrained clients' stock; a manager for major owners, principally Magalen Bryant; a bloodstock agent; and for the last few years, keeping a rehabilitation clinic for racehorses." His three grown sons have followed him into the profession: Leo, as a trainer based out of Santa Anita Park in California; Freddy, as director of the Arqana thoroughbred/purebred auction house in Deauville; and Richard, as owner of the family stud, Haras du Lieu des Champs, in Coupesarte, Normandy. "My French wife, Elisabeth, and I have 14 grandchildren, most of them passionate about horses," David said.

Sad news: **Gary Gunas**'s husband, Bill Rosenfield, writes, "I'm sorry to tell you that Gary passed away on February 22, 2021, at 73, after a four-year battle with pancreatic cancer."

Gary was a popular Broadway producer who presented such musicals as *The Who's Tommy*, *Ragtime* (based on the E.L. Doctorow novel) and *Seussical*. After moving to London, Gary and playwright-record producer Bill shared insiders' memories of backstage Broadway at the end of its Golden Age over two years of the *Playbill* video series *Old Show Queens*. Obits can be found online at *Playbill*: bit.ly/3yp65uX and at *Deadline*: bit.ly/3fwfF7E. [Editor's note: See "Obituaries."]

Did you fall in love with some novelist while at Columbia? Have you carried on the affair?

[Editor's note: In the Spring/Summer column, **Gregg Geller**'s reference to the student band The Montgomeries was changed to the Montgomery Brothers, a result of a mistake made during our fact-checking process. *CCT* apologizes for any confusion or embarrassment this might have caused.]

1970

Leo Kailas
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Hope everyone is well and resuming more normal post–Covid-19 lives. I will start with a note from first-time contributor **Mark Braverman**, and encourage others to do the same:

"I've often thought of submitting to Class Notes, and I'm finally ready to take the plunge. Here goes: An intersection between my time at Columbia and what would have seemed then a completely unlikely destination in later life concerns Edward Said, in 1966 just starting out as an assistant professor of English and comparative lit, his status as a famous public intellectual and proponent of Palestinian liberation still in the future. I gravitated to him because there was nothing I wanted to do more than study late 19th- and early 20th-century English lit, and he was brilliant. I took every course he taught, writing papers for him that drew heavily from psychoanalytic theory (I went on to be a clinical psychologist). Coming from a Conservative Jewish background and steeped in the romance and mythology of Zionism, I knew nothing of Palestinians — there were only the 'Arabs' who wanted to slaughter Jews and that's why we had Israel.

"I circled back to Said a few years after his 2003 death, when, following a trip in 2006 to the West Bank that flushed the last bit of Zionism out of me, I turned to writing, lecturing and activism for Palestine that pretty much took over my life. I have a couple of books, a slew of papers and co-founded two NGOs to show for it. The latest reinvention of myself is a 12-acre farm in Washington State with my wife, son and son-in-law dedicated to regenerative agriculture in advance of the climate apocalypse. If it doesn't come, wonderful — we've created a small corner of the planet devoted to local sourcing and cooperative community. If it does come we did the right thing for our children and grandchildren. See markbraverman.org and @watermoon_farm on Instagram."

My friend, Professor **David Lehman**, wrote to thank **David Bogorad**, editor-in-chief of our yearbook, for his first-time note in the Spring/Summer 2021 issue: "I am writing now just to thank you and **David Bogorad** for filling us in on what he has gone on to do since the yearbook he edited, which I recall vividly, along with the atmosphere of playful wit and sometimes impish invention at yearbook headquarters."

David also reported on his recent publication: "My new book of poems, *The Morning Line,* will be published in fall 2022. I write the 'Talking Pictures' column on classic movies for *The American Scholar* online (theamericanscholar.org/dept/sections/departments/talking-pictures)."

David also thanked me for mentioning Professor **Robert Launay**'s translations of French poetry of the Renaissance in an earlier column. Robert gave me a status report: "Alas, our plans for travel do not take us any further than Ann Arbor to see my daughter, son-in-law and grandchildren for the first time in a year and a half! All my age mates in my department (anthropology at Northwestern) are retiring this year, and I will be left as the (chronologically) senior member. But I remain active, particularly as a mentor for international graduate students."

Hoyt Hilsman LAW'75 writes: "I continue my work in writing and politics. I recently completed a pilot for a TV series; am the head of the regional Democratic party; and am on several Boards of Directors, including a theater where I am also the resident playwright. My son and daughter-in-law live up the street from us after moving from NYC. My wife has retired from teaching but has an active career as an artist. We look forward to resuming travel after a year at home. Best wishes to all CC'70 classmates."

Chuck Silberman (who worked with me on the fifth and 10th reunion, oh so long ago) reports: "My wife, Susan, and I have a new grandson, Jack Owen Silberman. His dad is Jeff Silberman '08, BUS'18, with a J.D. from Yale in between. Jeff is now climbing the ladder at Boston Consulting Group."

Another first-time writer, **Paul Spooner**, writes partially in response to my request for notes that referenced the Byzantine Cathedral on the Greek island of Paros: "Greetings from Macau! The fall of Constantinople 1453 always plays a major role in discussions of the Portuguese arrival in Asia: Goa 1510, Malacca 1511 and Macau 1556. On the CC basketball front, so sad to have lost **Jim McMillian, Heyward Dotson** LAW'76 and Bruce Metz SEAS'69. Look forward to your updates from Eastern Rome!"

Carl Hyndman GSAS'74 was also encouraged to write in response to my reference to Paros: "I have been to Paros three times: 1972, 1976 and 1999. My favorite Cyclades island. Inspired a chapter in my novel, *Bookstore on the Seine.* All the best."

Jack Probolus wrote after a long absence: "I have been delinquent in any class correspondence save for a small group of classmates with whom we have had many mini-reunions over the decades. I finally retired at the end of January and have eased into civic retirement with trips to the Caribbean. My wife, Susan, and I enjoy time with our four grandchildren, who are thankfully nearby. I have managed to continue rowing since graduation, but not competitively. It's been a great connection, and has helped keep continuity with a pack of former oarsmen. Looking forward to the emergence from the pandemic."

Ralph Allemano gave me an update: "The pandemic and lockdowns have, of course, put most activity on hold. Fortunately, all family and friends have got through it all reasonably well — just the lash of frustration and ennui. I live in rural Wales and the difference between pre-Covid-19 and lockdown tempo of life is a bit hard to distinguish. Still, as we tentatively edge toward normality I have to admit that the thought of traveling further than the supermarket at Carmarthen is rapture!"

Larry Rosenwald GSAS'79 also gave me an update: "I expect to retire in June 2022, which is ponderous for me, having taught at Wellesley since 1980. I'm giving most of my available time to a book on being a pacifist critic, a book about me but also not about me. In the meantime, somewhat surprisingly, I'm having a lot of my scripts and song texts for early music theater performed by very good ensembles: Les Delices in Cleveland, Calextone in Berkeley and Texas Early Music Project in Austin."

My RC from Furnald Hall, **Andy Kiorpes**, reports, "My daughters (36 and 40) are well and live in Madison, Wis. ('26 square miles surrounded by reality'). I stay active. I finished my tours of duty as president of the American College of Toxicology and the American Board of Toxicology. I will be inducted as a fellow of the Society of Toxicology this year. I am starting to slowly wind down my professional activities, but am still editor-in-chief of the journal *Toxicology and Industrial Health.* I have been seeking successors but so far, no volunteers. I love biking and recently completed the Tour de Pepin (around Lake Pepin in Minnesota/Wisconsin), and am going to ride the Root River Trail near Lanesboro (Minn.)."

1971

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Congratulations to **Peter Hiebert,** who chaired the Reunion Committee for our 50th. They provided our class with a platform to have a virtual reunion, limitations from Covid-19 restrictions and precautions having turned our 50th into an online event, and yet, they succeeded in creating an enjoyable experience. As a class we boldly went where no other class in the history of Columbia College had gone before — a virtual 50th reunion (with my apologies to Gene Roddenberry). So thank you to all the committee members who worked over months and months on the events for this reunion. Your classmates appreciate your efforts.

Peter also informs me that if virtual is not your cup of tea, a group of classmates are working on an in-person get-together on campus during Homecoming weekend (October 15–17). So please set aside that weekend. We share an experience unlike any other class of any other college. It makes us special and creates a bond; the fellowship should stay alive.

Peter took the opportunity to give *CCT* a small recap of where in life he stands. He retired from the practice of law last year. He worked on Capitol Hill for five years after graduation, and then attended Georgetown Law. For the last 36 years Peter practiced law at the firm of Winston & Strawn in Washington D.C. His wife, Elaine Chan, graduated in the first class of women from Princeton, and they have been married for 40 years. She is a retired marine biologist and lawyer. They have two sons, both of whom graduated from Colorado College. Peter presently splits time among Chevy Chase, Md.; Miami Beach; and the West Coast. He gets to New York frequently, as he has become, and I quote, "an unrepentant fan of Columbia's [football] team over the years." He leaves a standing invitation to meet at Robert K. Kraft Field at Lawrence A. Wien Stadium for a football game or even drinks afterward.

Greg Wyatt, as president of Fantasy Fountain Fund, has joined in partnership with the Rockland Community Foundation to create a grant program in 2021. It is meant to help artists sustain their creativity and offers financial support during the difficult environment for the arts created by the Covid pandemic. The community has suffered loss of financial backing because of the economy. Greg, who has been the sculptor-in-residence at the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine since 1983 and has many of his works prominently placed in sculpture gardens and national museums, is fortunate enough to have a studio in the cathedral. Many sculptors don't have similar resources. The awards program offers $2,500 to four professional sculptors who are working/living in the five boroughs of New York City, or in Rockland County or Westchester County. Greg, along with C. Scott Vanderhoef, has put together this program. It follows logically from their efforts to promote education in the arts for emerging and professional artists.

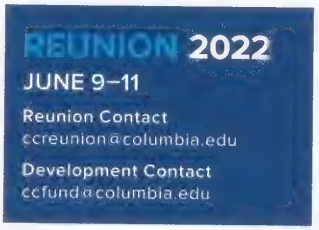
Last and least, I will toot my own horn, as I have self-published my first mystery novel, *Identically Dead,* under the tricky pseudonym of L.A. Preschel, via Kindle Direct Publishing. I hope it is the first in a series featuring a female detective, Sam Cochran.

We are a special class and the bonds from more than 50 years ago should remain strong because the forge in which they were struck was such a unique home for us.

If you have a story you wish to tell classmates, let me know.

Be safe, be well and remember to roar, because once a lion, always a lion.

1972



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Would you characterize our class as shy and retiring? Well, maybe not shy, but the latest batch of missives to arrive from our classmates suggests that we certainly are retiring.

Take **Doug Weiner** GSAS'84, for example. After 33 years as a professor in the Department of History at the University of Arizona, Doug taught his last course this past spring. He's now on a yearlong research leave, after which his retirement becomes official. What next? "I would like to travel more once the pandemic is under control worldwide," with the national parks in the west his first destination. "We've made plans for an August sweep through Zion and Bryce Canyon national parks with one of my closest friends. We'll then meet friends in Salt Lake City and see the bison herd on the Antelope Island peninsula of the lake. We'll head back to Tucson via Arches. Not as exciting as Carcassonne, Provence and Spain, but a nice trip."

Very nice indeed.

Another of our retirees is **Mark Mandell.** "I finally stopped working last March after almost 40 years in an emergency department, 20 years as the physician director of a very large and busy emergency department. Working in an ER is definitely for young people, not so much because of the stress but because you can't control your workflow and because there is little opportunity for downtime during the course of a shift."

Covid-19, of course, played a role: "It certainly didn't make it any easier having to work 12 straight hours with a mask."

In the meantime, Mark has found plenty of things to keep busy with, including family, gardening and studying a variety of languages: "French, which is pretty passable after working in Montreal for two years; Hebrew which is getting better; and Yiddish, which seems of sentimental value more than anything else."

Mariano Rey, another of our physicians, who has been retired since 2014, sent an update of the last 50 years. "I met my wife, Mona, at Ferris Booth Hall, in summer 1970 when we worked together in the neighborhood around Columbia. I was the head of the student-run Community Service Council and she was a Block Association organizer. We have been together for 50 years, married since 1977. We have three wonderful children: Kathleen (a family practice physician north of Boston), Christine (a pre-K teacher in Washington, D.C., public schools) and Michael (a pulmonologist in Philadelphia), and five perfect grandchildren."

After Columbia, Mariano went to medical school at NYU, where he spent the rest of his professional career. "I chose to be at NYU-Bellevue because of the exceptional care that all patients receive there, regardless of race or nationality, whether poor or rich." Following a residency in internal medicine and a fellowship in cardiology, his first faculty job was director of the Bellevue Adult Cardiology Clinic for Working Men and Women, and he was simultaneously involved on a variety of National Institutes of Health-supported

cardiology research projects. Mariano created the Non-Invasive Cardiology Center at Bellevue and the Division of Cardiac and Pulmonary Rehabilitation at the NYU Rusk Institute, and taught students in all four medical school years, in courses including cardiac physiology, clinical cardiology, electrocardiography and advanced coronary care. "The students voted me 'Teacher of the Year' twice," he says, "once for teaching in the clinical sciences and the second for teaching in the basic sciences. Because of my impact on medical students, the NYU administration appointed me associate dean for student affairs (dean of medical students) in 2000. During my seven-year tenure, there were no academic failures."

His last years at NYU saw Mariano involved in the establishment of The Center for the Study of Asian American Health, essentially creating an academic discipline to address the health of Asian-American populations. The center was a site for research on health issues affecting this population, with findings published in the 2009 textbook *Asian American Communities and Health*, for which he was senior editor. "For other community contributions," he says, "I was honored in 2012 to receive the Haven Emerson Lifetime Achievement Award for Engagement, Education and Research from the New York City Public Health Association."

Mariano retired from NYU in January 2014 at rank of research professor of medicine (cardiology) and population health. "Mona and I moved, with our two Havanese dogs (appropriately called by Cuban names — Marti and Maceo), to the island of Martha's Vineyard, Mass. We love the island for the beautiful nature, the peacefulness and its community. We live here quietly, except, of course, when our precious grandchildren — Sophie, Lydia, Ryan, Eliza and Hannah — visit. They too love the island."

Of course, retirement doesn't necessarily mean the end of significant contributions to the broader world. **Gene Ross** retired from his career as an otolaryngologist more than a year ago, but when Covid struck he "answered the call to arms, and became a volunteer physician vaccinator for the Middlesex County, N.J., Health Department, from February 2021 (after becoming immunized myself) until late June, when the bulk of the populace had been vaccinated and demand dropped off. I personally vaccinated several thousand patients, principally with the Moderna vaccine. Hard work. Sites would often inoculate 1,100 people per day with a handful of vaccinators."

Fortunately, Gene and his family emerged mostly unscathed, though they did lose an elderly family member to the virus. "I sold my Riverside Drive condo just before the siege," he adds, "and currently split time, with my wife, between New Jersey and Florida homes. My sons are all successful and paired off contentedly with girlfriends or fiancées. My magnificent wife helps me keep life vibrant and joyous. I haven't forgotten that our 50th reunion is imminent."

Funny you should mention that, Gene. Even (maybe especially) if you haven't come back to campus for any of our reunions, next spring will be the time to do it. It will be very special to celebrate our lives over the last 50 years together; the more of you who come, the more special it will be. Details will follow but do plan to join us. And stay well.

[Editor's note: Columbia Reunion 2022, for classes ending in 2 and 7, and the Class of 2021, is scheduled for June 9–11. Watch your mailbox and inbox for more information!]

1973

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These are the balance of the notes I got when I emailed "all" accidentally for the Spring/Summer 2021 issue. Apologies for the delay!

Steve Flanagan sent regards from Jan Lookingbill, former head resident of Hartley Hall. Jan stepped down as pastor at Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Bethesda, Md., in 2017; many of us remember him fondly. Last November marked Steve's fifth anniversary at the Rand Corp.; he's also an adjunct professor at Georgetown. He and his wife, Lynn, are well; their younger son, Neil '08, lives nearby, while their elder son, Brian, lives in Los Angeles.

Joel Pfister, among others, hopes we've all stayed safe. He continues as a professor of English and American studies at Wesleyan, and is writing a book (number 7) on American movies as social critiques.

Brad Poulos was director of a tissue bank for 20 years, sending human tissue for research across North America, resulting in more than 250 journal articles. He says he was proudest of the one that defined the growth factor that could help ALS patients. Unfortunately, a congressional committee put a stop to the research. He reports on Ed Cranswick '75, who started as a '73er and eventually went back to his motherland, Australia, and became an active antiwar protestor. Ed evidently passed away on July 3, 2020, in Adelaide, unfortunately.

Andy Kiorpes '70 will be inducted as a fellow of the Society of Toxicology this year, and is editor-in-chief of the journal Toxicology and Industrial Health.

Robert Pruznick lamented the necessary but unfortunate stoppage of the wrestling season, but still keeps in touch on the board of Beta Theta Pi, which he notes is the only non-CU real estate of West 114th Street! They have recently refinanced the mortgage; he and retired judge **Bob Sacavage** have been doing the heavy ... lifting.

Russ Goldberg wrote that after graduating from NYU Med in 1978, he did a residency in internal medicine in Chicago, where he met his wife, Linda. They moved to Seattle in 1983 and have "two great kids." Russ retired in 2018 after 30 years, now filling in part time and volunteering as a Covid-19 vaxxer. He says he's enjoyed the Northwest, and recently took up golf at 68! If anyone wants to get in touch, email him: russgoldberg@gmail.com.

Steve Messner transitioned to professor emeritus on February 1; he began his academic career at CC in 1977, and was at SUNY Albany for 38 years. He and his wife, Jill have begun to plan to travel more.

Erik Bergman spent much of this last Covid year birding all over Oregon (masked and socially distanced); he says he's grateful for the wide-open spaces in the PAC-NW!

Christopher Koefoed is the founder of peopleofthecivilwar.com, where he posts little-known facts about people of that time. Obviously interesting — he has 7,600 people who "like" his Facebook page! He is also developing several original screenplays.

Steve Oney writes from the Cape, where he and his wife, Annie, live. Steve continues to write and produce the Cape Cod Radio Mystery Theater. They have put up some of their earlier radio mysteries for free during Covid, including one, *Stalking Lions*, which takes place at ... Columbia. Steve sends a shout-out to Tom Kitt '96 and Ben Platt GS'14 for their "Oh, Columbia" — "beautiful song, beautifully rendered."

Maurice Peterson is at a high-point in his career; he was featured in a one-man show at the Norman Rockwell Museum, the last stop of a two-year museum tour that took him to France, as well. The show originated with one painting, but has grown to a 13-work solo exhibition; his website is popspeterson.com/copy-of-press.

And last: In 2019, **Jose Sanchez** and colleagues were able to get a street in Williamsburg named after **Angelo M. Falcón,** at South 1st and Havemeyer Streets, as an acknowledgment to his contributions to city and national politics. Bravissimo!

1974

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For the first time in more than four decades, there was no class news in an issue of *CCT* (Spring/Summer 2021). Ph.D. oral exams, marriage, the birth of two children, the 9-11 attack and all the other disruptions during this time period had failed to halt this column. Hospitalization with Covid-19 proved to be too great an obstacle to overcome. Therefore, this column will contain updates from classmates from more than the last few months.

This column wasn't the only thing postponed by the pandemic. Dr. **Steve Blumenthal**'s son, Andrew, had planned a wedding and reception for July 2020. The wedding took place on time, but the reception was scheduled for this past summer. Steve was a longtime pediatrician in Portland, Maine, but retired at the end of 2020. Also retiring at the end of last year was **Tom Sawicki** JRN'77, who served for many years as the associate director of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee in Jerusalem.

Two classmates have written in to tell us of new grandchildren. Dr. **Peter Zegarelli** DM'78 now has a second grandchild (granddaughter Lane), and **Ed Berliner** GSAS'80 now has eight grandchildren with the arrival of grandson Andrew.

Chris Hansen wrote that he moved to the United Kingdom in 1994. He says, "I've been a British citizen for 21 years — an anniversary of consequence!"

Few classmates have made a radical career change like **Marc Reston** did. For eight years (until 2016) he was an attorney at Chadbourne & Parke in its Washington, D.C., office. He then moved to become director of business development at Impairment Science in Cambridge, Mass. He describes the firm as an "applied neuroscience startup" that has developed a smartphone application that provides "an objective test for cognitive and motor impairment due to marijuana, alcohol, opioids and motor impairment (including concussions)."

On a personal note, I am pleased to report that Katie, the daughter of **Fred Bremer** and his wife, Susan, graduated in May from American University in Washington, D.C. She received two degrees: a B.S. in public health and a second B.S., in environmental science. Because classes were remote, her final exams were all "take-home" (or should they be called "stay-at-home"?). Students were allowed to use Google. I was jealous until I realized that Google did not exist in 1974 — and there weren't even PCs!

There you have it. The Class of '74 expands as our kids marry and others have kids of their own. Classmates are retiring while others are busy in new careers. "The times they are a-changin'," as Dylan said.

1975

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Classmates, I have no news to share this time, but don't be shy about sending me some! Use the email above or the Class Notes webform (college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note). Photos and captions should be submitted directly to *CCT* using the Class Notes photo webform (college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo). See you in the Winter 2021–22 issue!

1976

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Flipping on the Technics turntable once again with *Bookends* by Simon & Garfunkel, and now off to the column!

First, many thanks to the Bicentennial Class of 1976 for attending our 45th reunion virtual events during the past year. Our attendance and giving exceeded all expectations. In addition, the Zoom events (we did seven!) were a tremendous diversion for my cat, who was happy to have me otherwise occupied during quarantining.

A recap of the last two Zooms: Early April had a theme of memories of the One Big Thing that happened at Columbia during our four years. That Zoom also had a question and answer with Cat Sposato '21. Hearing firsthand the on-campus student experience during the pandemic and a recap of her college years was very interesting. The next Zoom featured the One Big NYC Thing that would not have been seen if we were not students. The session was lively; good stories and a lot of laughs.

Thanks to everyone who participated online or sent their messages to be included in the sessions. In previous columns, I mentioned a lot of participants, but these last two Zooms had two new attendees: **Reynold Verret,** president of Loyola University in Louisiana, and **Toomas Hendrik Ilves,** former president of Estonia.

Dave Getty was one of a number of classmates who could not make the One Big NYC Thing Zoom but sent in a great memory: "On a cold Sunday morning in December 1972, my good friend **Bobby Werber** on Carman 9 offered me his family's extra ticket to the Jets-Saints game. We escaped from final test cramming and took the subway to Shea, where we witnessed two all-time great QBs face off in my first NFL game. The lowly Saints (2–8) defense shut down Broadway Joe all day, much to my delight, being a Bears fan and hating all sports New York. Archie Manning was an incredible one-man show, passing, running and leading an upset until the final second, when the Jets kicked their sixth field goal of the game to win 18–17. I have told this story many times, usually when watching Archie's sons play or seeing Joe Namath's Medicare commercials."

Mark Abbott was another '76er with a great memory of his One Big NYC Thing: "My big thing was discovering the downtown NYC rock scene in 1975 and 1976 at Mother's, Max's and CBGB and seeing live shows by Television, Talking Heads, Ramones, New York Dolls and Patti Smith, and several nights of late-night jams by Smith, Lenny Kaye, Lou Reed, Iggy Pop, John Cale, Mick Ronson and David Byrne at the Lower Manhattan Ocean Club in 1976! Started buying 45s at Bleecker Bob's!"

During our June virtual reunion, Roger Lehecka '67, GSAS'74 led a conversation about what endured from our Columbia experience, and it spun out in many interesting directions. That virtual Zoom-union ended with a surprise for Roger as the Kingsmen sang both "Sans Souci" and "Roar, Lion, Roar" as a '76er thank-you to him. See the nearby photo!

So, I eased out of my Zoom-antine with a trip to South Jersey for a round of golf with **John Connell** and then lunch with him and his wife, Colleen. Next was a trip to Syracuse to see Mika and check up on her at Chez Goodrich.

After a visit to Chincoteague Island in Virginia, I drove up the Atlantic Coast, stopped in Rehoboth Beach, Del., and had a great lunch with **Mozelle Thompson.** After lunch, Mozelle gave me a tour of the town, including a drive-by of the Delaware White House. Afterward, I took the Cape May-Lewes Ferry back to the Garden State Parkway, then counted cars on the New Jersey Turnpike (keeping with this column's record album theme!) before returning to Hoboken.

Now to the updates. **Patrick Bergin** checked in from Oregon last spring: "Patiently awaiting Death of Covid-19 here in Oregon. I am an interventional cardiologist, so I get to mix with the sickest patients a lot. I mean that in a good way. :) Despite best efforts, failed to contract Covid, so settled for Pfizer vaccine, administered on New Year's Eve."

Doug Halsey writes: "At the end of June 2017, I retired from White & Case, where I was head of the Environment and Climate Change Practice Group. I continue to do work for a handful of clients in Florida and New York and have a nice balance between work and family. My wife, Amy, and I have three grandchildren: 6 months, 3 and 5 from our son (a dermatologist) and daughter-in-law (an orthopedic surgeon). Our daughter married this past June and is part of a pediatrics group in New London. Amy and I will celebrate our 45th anniversary this year. We split our time between Miami and Bridgehampton, N.Y. We trust there will be a Class of '76 reunion and think the fall would be a great time to have this event."

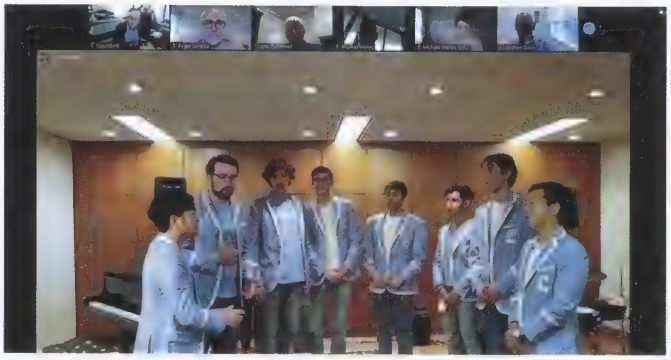
Doug is right! The Reunion Committee is discussing an in-person event in addition to Homecoming on Saturday, October 16.

With the new use of remote technology, **Ken Tamashiro** had this suggestion: "I am thinking that in future years we could have an in-person reunion on campus in June and a virtual 'homecoming' in October or November, when hotel rooms are scarce and dorms are not an option."

Great idea, and this year's Homecoming would be a good time to try it if classmates cannot get to New York.

Some classmates were exhausted by Zoom and are eager to see everyone in person. **Jonathan Margolis** summed up that opinion: "I couldn't do one more Zoom or virtual meeting without pulling my hair out (and judging by the pictures, I have a lot more than most of our colleagues). I will definitely be at Homecoming and look forward to seeing everyone."

I received this message from **Joshua Zakheim:** "My youngest daughter is in a joint program between the Jewish Theological Seminary on West 122nd Street and General Studies, so it's been fun visiting the campus (except last year) and seeing all the changes,



CC'76 held its 45th reunion virtually on June 2. In a screenshot from the gathering are, at top (left to right): Ken Howitt '76; Roger Lehecka '67, who led a conversation about what endured from the class's Columbia experience; John Connell '76; Tom Motley '76; Michelle Martin, assistant director, student-alumni programs; and Steve Davis '76. The main photo is the Kingsmen, who sang "Sans Souci" and "Roar, Lion, Roar" as a thank-you to Lehecka.

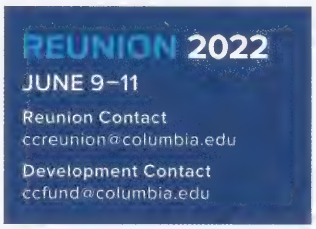
some for the better and some for the worse (in my opinion). I still forget to call Livingston by its 'new' name, whatever that is. A shoutout to my old friend **Louis Steinberg.** I would mention some more old comrades, but I'm supposed to be working right now (from the basement)."

I saved our sitting Federal District Court judge for the last update. (When Judge Judy retires) So, even though he is far from retirement, **Vinnie Briccetti** checked in: "In April, I passed my 10th anniversary on the bench, which gave me a chance to reflect on how blessed I am to have the best law job on Earth. Never a dull moment, and during Covid-19 we all worked harder than ever. We never closed; we just found different ways to do our jobs (like everyone else). Seems like everyone I know is retired (or is about to retire), but I have no intention of doing so. I'll keep plugging away for as long as I can do my job. One fun fact: Ted Green '77, LAW'80 (he was managing editor of *Spectator*) frequently appears before me; gives us a chance to reminisce.

"On the personal side, I now have two grandkids — 2-year-old Felix and 3-month-old Molly. I finally figured out why we bothered to have children! One last thing: In the Spring/Summer 2021 issue, *CCT* included a piece about the "most nostalgic noshes and hallowed hangouts." But how could it not include The Mill Luncheonette, on Broadway between 112th and 113th Streets? It's where most of us got our first egg cream. Also, the proprietors, husband and wife, were Holocaust survivors — I will never forget the tattooed numbers on their arms."

Bookends was a great choice since "Old Friends" is now playing. Our voices are still young, our memories are still fresh and your outreach created a great reunion year! Thanks!

1977



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A year ago, **Walter Simson** gave a shoutout to **Bill Gray** in this column. That was in the middle of the pandemic, of course. And the fact that it was reminded Bill, as he explains, "how important — and pleasant — it is to maintain connections." ... But I will now hand the mic over to Bill (the remaining quotation marks being his):

"I am still a working attorney. I no longer resent the 'When are you retiring?' query except from work colleagues. Speaking of working attorneys, **Michael Sherman** and I have maintained a great friendship throughout the years despite being separated by a continent since graduation. We met in Hamilton Hall on 'Accepted Students Day' in spring 1973. I easily identified Michael as another 'potential' student from the look of terror on his face and his new blue blazer, which set him apart from the sea of 'actual' students whirring through the corridors. (If memory serves, I blended in much better as my blazer was a tad more shopworn, but that might be self-serving.) Our wives and children have been regaled with stories of our Columbia days and enduring friendship more times than may have been strictly necessary, but that hasn't deterred us yet.

"My wife, Monica; our three children; and our new son-in-law have been hunkered down in our new home on City Island, the Bronx, not to mention three canine companions. We sold our home in Larchmont in 2018 and escaped to this 'fishing village' off the northeastern tip of the Bronx. It has become a great sanctuary during the pandemic, especially for my daughters who live in Manhattan. Even our Barcelona-based son has made it home for the holidays. Becoming a true local here is a bit of an effort, but Monica and I are enjoying the challenge. Proximity to the sea (Eastchester Bay, south and west; Long Island Sound to the east and north) is a big draw. The mini-beach at the end of our street offers an often-spectacular vista of the Manhattan skyline that is hard to beat. The island is less rustic than rusty, but charming if you know where to look. Classmates interested in a visit or a tour know how to reach me.

"The devastation of Covid-19 lies all around us. Nobody needs to hear more about that from me. But I would like to mention a small loss that crossed my mind when reading *CCT*. For the previous eight years, I have hosted 'Mini-Core' courses organized by Professor Deborah Martinsen, associate dean of alumni education. (Her mentor was our own beloved dean, Robert Belknap.) Billed as opportunities to reconnect to the Core Curriculum, the Mini-Core courses connect great Columbia teachers with grateful alumni of all ages to explore triumphs of art, music and literature in a symposium setting. Professor Martinsen has curated an eclectic program through the years: presentations on ethics by Professor Philip Kitcher; Chaucer readings (sometimes in Old(e)English!) by Professor Eleanor Johnson; a guided tour of the art of Monet, Picasso and Warhol, directed by Professor Noam Elcott '00; and Professor Martinsen's presentations on *The Brothers Karamazov* and on the unlikely trinity of Augustine, Dostoevsky and Nabokov, to name a few. Enjoyable as those classes were at the time, the memories of sitting in a room exchanging ideas and thoughts (often fortified by light libations) with 25 fellow Columbians, and a sprinkling of Barnard graduates and other friends, are all the more cherished in this year of social deprivation. It was a bit of an adjustment, I confess, listening to professors who were not only smarter than I, but considerably younger and infinitely hipper. Things change; life goes on.

"Here's hoping that we can soon again enjoy those simple social interactions which added so much to the fabric of our lives. With 2020 in the rearview mirror, let's 'fight on to victory evermore.'"

[Editor's note: Columbia Reunion 2022, for classes ending in 2 and 7, and the Class of 2021, is scheduled for June 9–11. Watch your mailbox and inbox for more information!]

1978

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It's great to be hearing regularly from so many classmates these days, and especially from some new folks in each column. We are limited in the number of words we get, so I'm doing my best to get everyone in each issue. Keep the cards and letters coming, as they say.

Ronald Koury, managing editor of *The Hudson Review,* writes to tell of a great Columbia story: "It was thanks to a job listing at the Columbia employment office that I landed my first job at *The Hudson Review,* a quarterly magazine of literature and the arts, in 1981. In June I celebrated 40 years at the magazine.

"In April, my anthology, *Places Lost and Found: Travel Essays from the* Hudson Review, was published. Columbia professors such as Edward W. 'Ted' Tayler (his famous class on Shakespeare) and Robert F. Murphy '49, GSAS'54 (anthropology) inspired my lifelong love of travel. This is my second anthology published by Syracuse University Press.

"I am a bachelor living in Manhattan."

Kevin Vitting, at the Suburban Nephrology Group in Ridgewood N.J., writes: "As a citizen living in one of 13 former colonies, I pause, writing this on Independence Day 2021, to ponder the notion of freedom in the present moment: freedom to again move about and gather with friends and family, freedom to receive a miraculous vaccine at public expense — and freedom to denounce said vaccine and to espouse bizarre conspiracy theories and racist ideologies.

"This is certainly not the first time our republic has been so deeply polarized by such conflicting viewpoints. Previous generations of Americans learned to acknowledge, if not condone, ideas that to them were preposterous. Democracy is messy and noisy and frankly inefficient. But it is the noble vessel that has borne our imperfect but hopeful Union through many ages ... and no, I didn't lift this from an old CC paper!"

Tim Weiner JRN'79, one of 1978's most well-known multi/major award-winning authors and journalists and former fellow WKCR board member, looks back with these positive thoughts: "It's been a good life: one amazing marriage for 27 years, two beautiful daughters (25 and 21), long stints at *The New York Times* (16 years) and *The Philadelphia Inquirer* (11 years), lots of amazing adventures in places like Afghanistan and Sudan, six books published including histories of the CIA and FBI, and a seventh underway.

"I still have (almost) all my hair. Am I a lucky guy or what?"

Rob Blank, at the Garvan Institute of Medical Research and a fellow Five John Jay alumnus, notes: "We're in Sydney, Australia, and in full lockdown. It's tougher the second time around. We were more or less back to normal except for the foreign travel ban until about two weeks before I wrote this. Looking forward to sufficient vaccination for travel to resume.

"How did Columbia prepare me for this last year? Reading Thucydides on the plague remains insightful even in the modern world. Looking ahead it is hard to know where America is going from where I am. Sadly, I am not greatly optimistic."

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit Judge **Joseph A. Greenaway Jr.** writes an opinion for us, "Family Fun — my son Joe SPS'17 had a Covid-19 wedding last July and recently moved to California. My daughter Sam finished USC (no, not that one — South Carolina) and recently moved into her first apartment. My youngest started eighth grade in September. The bench is still great fun, and my wife's professorial life means learning all the time. Hope to see you guys before our 45th in 2023.

"I am really looking forward to seeing friends and experiencing some sense of normalcy in the coming year."

David Margules, a longtime partner at Ballard Spahr in Wilmington, Del., says: "My wife, Michelle BC'77, and I have become grandparents. Our son, Andy, and his wife had a baby girl, Margot Elizabeth Margules, on July 1.

"I'm enjoying the emergence from my cave after Covid-19. There have been some great positives. After almost 40 years, my marriage didn't suffer from a year and a half of confinement with my wife. I also gained an appreciation for telecommuting. I'm still trying to figure out how to turn off my cat avatar on Zoom. I am looking forward to being able to hug lots of people this fall!

"I do remain very concerned that our national polity is sharply divided in half, that each half is convinced the other is trying to destroy the country and that each believes everything is a lie."

Joel Levinson is an attorney in Red Bank N.J. "The highlights of this summer included my grandson Leo turning 2 this September, and me and Larry Sackler '79 going to see the Grateful Dead this August," he writes.

"Among many other items, Columbia gave me a love for Shakespeare, which made for some great reading while stuck in the house this year. This fall I plan to get out on the water and row more.

"As for the future, I fear we are heading for another shooting Civil War, thanks to spineless Republicans who cater to baseless conspiracy theories and a criminal demagogue just to get reelected. And I am a registered Republican, although I must say my party left me, not the other way around."

Barry Rosenblatt, of SME Biotech Consulting in Boynton Beach, Fla., shares: "I am living in Florida, consulting for the pharmaceutical industry remotely. I retired twice, but I keep getting pulled back in. I got married last October, pandemic-style, outdoors on the lanai of my house on our lake.

"I am struck by the fact that no one was really prepared for 2020. As for the changes for the next few months, I'm going to start eating at restaurants again ...

"And, as for our country, until Americans start acting with civility instead of politics, our society will continue to degrade."

Dr. **Marcel Favetta,** who has an M.B.A., is at Geisinger Health System in Wilkes Barre, Pa. He writes: "As an ob/gyn working for a large healthcare organization in northeast Pennsylvania, the past year has had an unusual effect on our lives. The increased reliance on telemedicine has significantly changed how I can interact with my patients.

"My spouse is a recently retired infectious diseases specialist whose former partners have been crushed by the onslaught of Covid-19 patients cared for by the same organization.

"Interestingly, our social interactions among a close group of friends were never significantly impacted as we rode out the worst of the pandemic.

"One of our children moved back home. As a 'background' actor in numerous film and TV productions, his career has been in limbo for more than a year. Luckily, he has been able to transition to online voice acting and sound editing. Our other son works for a large entertainment company in central Florida. The fear of interacting with potentially unvaccinated guests on a daily basis has been incredibly stressful, but he has been able to work through the process. Luckily, the availability of a Covid vaccine has positively impacted our entire family.

"I think America is doing poorly. Many in this country have not learned the art of critical thinking, which is at the core of a liberal arts education. This is not in the least a condescending thought."

Joseph Schachner SEAS'79, a veteran at Teledyne LeCroy in Suffern, N.Y. writes: "I took the five-year plan at Columbia, ending up with a B.A. and a B.S.E.E. I wanted to be an engineer, and I have been for most of my career. Now I am a manager of a small group of software engineers and, having turned 65, I think my 'career' will be coming to an end within two years. It's been a very good career. But it's time to retire My older daughter has two kids, our grandchildren. The second is now a year old. We went to meet her only a couple of months ago, after they and we were all vaccinated. Planning another visit soon.

"In March 2020 I brought home my laptop and its dock and very happily worked from home for the full year. After being vaccinated I started going back.

"I kept thinking, thank heaven we have a normal President again. But I do harbor a fear that this is not a permanent course correction, but just a brief pause from a party that denies climate change — denies reality in some cases — and believes that they should choose who can vote easily, if it will help them win."

In my own life, my eldest daughter, Elana (31), was married to Sean Young in April in our New Haven backyard (bigger event next Memorial Day). They live in New Haven, where Sean is part of an interesting computer space simulation environment/game called Space Engine — sort of Google Earth for the universe. Younger daughter, Joy (27), is back from two years living and working in Shanghai, to accompany her partner, Austin Brown, to San Diego, where he is starting a two-year international policy master's at UCSD. After two years at the global video recipe giant Side Chef, Joy is looking for marketing jobs in food or environment, if anyone on the West Coast has any ideas. My wife of 36 years, Marian Chertow BC'77, continues her international leadership in the fields of industrial symbiosis and ecology as a professor at Yale. Budderfly, our startup in the area of energy as a service, is growing well, and I hope you will see it near the top of the *Inc.* 5,000 by the time you read this.

Until next time, cheers and be well!

1979

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Jace Weaver SIPA'81, LAW'82: "The article on Columbia hangouts in the Spring/Summer 2021 *CCT* ['The Places You Called Your Own'] got me waxing nostalgic. I thought of all the places that it excluded. They're too numerous to mention; places now gone in a city that constantly changes. I'll mention just a few favor-

ites. The article, of course, mentions the late-lamented The West End, but it fails to mention The Gold Rail, closed in 1978, where the pitchers were cheaper. The Hungarian Pastry Shop was an ancillary to The Green Tree Hungarian restaurant, where I downed many a delicious cold cherry soup and chicken paprikash. Ta-Kome, where Morton Williams now operates, competed with Mama Joy's. Hungry Mac's was where H Mart now is. For years after it closed, I had its sign '70 Seats Upstairs' on my kitchen wall. Then there was Moon Palace, home to cheap Cantonese fare that the *Times* described as a 'frayed local gathering place' and that folded in 1991. For those of us willing to venture slightly farther down Broadway, there was La Bella China Restaurant, a bastion of that vanishing New York institution, the Cuban-Chinese restaurant, and Cannon's, a working-class Irish bar that finally gave up the last ghost in 2004.

"When I returned to Morningside Heights in the 1990s for my master's and Ph.D., I worked in Washington Heights, where I found a new set of hangouts, some immortalized in Lin-Manuel Miranda and Quiara Alegría Hudes's *In the Heights*. But that's a tale for a different day."

Robert C. Klapper: "For the last 10 years I have hosted a radio show in Los Angeles on ESPN, *Weekend Warrior,* which has given me a unique opportunity to combine my love of sports, art history and medicine, and discuss the connection among these seemingly diverse worlds. My weekly guests include professional athletes, artists, physicians and renowned experts from academia. The mix of disciplines makes for a one-of-a-kind listening experience, and is unlike any other traditional sports radio show.

"Kobe Bryant recorded the promo that I use each Saturday encouraging Laker fans to "get your weekend started off right by listening to the *Weekend Warrior* show with Dr. K-l-a-p-p-a-h." I continue to play the promo on the show because of how much Bryant meant to me and to all of Los Angeles.

"Because I took the Core Curriculum, and despite being pre-med majored in art history, now each Saturday for two hours I get to combine the worlds of art, sports and surgery.

"My guest can be from Hollywood (Dustin Hoffman and William Shatner) or from sports (NBA Hall of Famer Isiah Thomas and football legend Dick Butkus). But it is when I venture with my guest into the world of art that I really feel my Columbia College vibrations.

"I recently was given a birthday gift of a new book about my favorite artist, to whom I was introduced during our sophomore year while taking art history. Sculptor Michelangelo and his life's work changed my life forever, leading me to ultimately travel each summer to the mountains of Carrara so I can sculpt like he did using the same rock that he used to make the *David.* The book, *Michelangelo, God's Architect: The Story of His Final Years and Greatest Masterpiece,* is by William E. Wallace GSAS'83, the Barbara Murphy Bryant Distinguished Professor of Art History at Washington University in St. Louis. It is the eighth book he has written about Michelangelo, and the focus is on the last 20 years of the master's life (age 70–89), which involved building St. Peter's. Wallace argues this was the most productive time in the sculptor's life, not because of the amount of sculptures he makes, but rather in his creativity as an architect, and getting others to carry out his vision.

"[In the foreword,] Wallace acknowledges his mentor, Howard Hibbard, and I learned that Wallace earned a Ph.D. in art history at GSAS. I was so excited to read this because my love affair with Michelangelo achieved a great height when I took a course my junior year with Hibbard. I called the publisher and was able to connect directly with Wallace, and the friendship was instantaneous, knowing that all these years later we probably ate at V&T, The Hungarian Pastry Shop and Mama Joy's at the same time. My radio interview with him opened the eyes of many sports fans in Los Angeles, but how special it was for me to continue to connect the worlds of art, sports and surgery because of what I learned 40 years ago at the College.

"Roar, lion, roar!"

1980

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After spending 18 months in hibernation, NYC is back, almost! We survived the pandemic and the new normal is slowing taking hold. Midtown is starting to pick up with professionals retuning to work, and the city that never sleeps is feeling like its old self.

One of the first restaurant events was a wonderful dinner at Carmine's, near campus, with **Eric Blattman, Jack Hersch SEAS'80** and **Dave Maloof.** We toasted with a glass of chianti to our friend Harlan Simon '81, whom we lost to cancer. Jack has taken his passion for flying to a new level with his book *The Dangers of Automation in Airliners: Accidents Waiting to Happen.* Both Dave and Eric were in good spirits and glad to see familiar faces.

A group of CC'80 football players — **Scott Ahern, Eric Blattman, Joe Ciulla, John Hall** and me — spent a great weekend at the home of **Shawn FitzGerald** on the North Fork. Wonderful food, great wines and amazing renditions of classic southern rock songs. Not quite sure if Joe remembers all the words, but his performance is epic!

I thank all my classmates who checked in with me over the last year. Please feel free to reach out to me with news.

1981

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Like the weddings, anniversaries, graduations and other celebrations held over the last 15 months, our quinquennial reunion was different this year. Rather than sharing handshakes, cocktails and family photos, we shared stories over Zoom.

More than 40 Columbia and Barnard College Class of 1981 alumni spent time on June 2 reliving life in Morningside Heights during the late 1970s and early 1980s. With **Rich Gentile** and Jean Pedersen BC'81 setting the stage, any concerns that this virtual reunion might be awkward were quickly allayed once participants began sharing their stories. From **John Luisi** doffing his much-too-small C'81 beanie, to discussions of classes, restaurants, professors and the infamous Pub, together with an unexpected showing of a Sam Steinberg original, the evening showed that our college years remain very much with us. And let's not forget the amazing but true tale, recounted by **Richard Silbert,** about why you shouldn't decorate your dorm room with a very, very heavy, rolled-up carpet found on a Broadway sidewalk. The great debates of the era, of course, remained unresolved: Ta-Kome or Mama Joy's? Tom's or College Inn? CC or Lit Hum? (Well, we didn't really debate the Core.)

For those who were unable to attend but would like to hear some of the evening's banter, it's memorialized on YouTube: "Reunion 2021: Class of 1981 | A Stroll Down Memory Lane." Here's a link: bit.ly/CC81REUNION.

Rich Baugh has attended nearly all our reunions, and greeted us this year from Harrisonburg, Va., in the bucolic Shenandoah Valley. Rich continues to practice law for Hoover Penrod and served for 12 years on the Harrisonburg City Council, including a stint as mayor in 2011–12. He and his wife, Cathy, a proud alumna of James Madison University, are season ticket holders for Dukes football. Rich is a great storyteller, and shared some of his recollections on Zoom and in correspondence with **Dan Albohn.** Rich applied to Columbia with tepid support from his family, but once he arrived, he "really wanted to be here. I wanted to take in the whole experience, and admittedly, spent more time checking out bands and eating interesting, cheap food, giving perhaps less attention to my studies." Rich frequented Yung Yuan Szechuan on Broadway, The Green Tree and La Bella China Restaurant, which "people either loved or hated." He also recalled what we believe to be The Edelweiss Café, situated across from campus on the corner of Amsterdam and 116th Street — does anyone else recall the place? During junior and senior year, Rich lived in Plimpton Hall, which was renowned for its Thursday night happy hour, followed (for some) by a sequel at The Pub.

Speaking of The Pub, **Dan Tamkin** weighed in from NYC and told stories of many hours there as part of a crew whose final, preferred destination in the wee hours of the morning was The College Inn. Dan also "ran the category" on watering holes in the neighborhood, sharing some history of the Marlin Café, the

Third Phase, The Gold Rail and the iconic The West End. Check out the video for the rest of the story.

Manny Tirado, a regular at Columbia football games and exuberant as ever, recalled Chock full o' Nuts for its quality cup of coffee at a great value. Manny, who served in the Army Reserve, always seemed to be involved in local political campaigns during college. True to form, he's now managing a friend's campaign for judge in Dutchess County, N.Y. After 24 years with the New York City Transit Authority, Manny retired in August 2021 and moved up the Hudson to Greenwood Lake, N.Y., where he enjoys boating, fishing and some good BBQ. He remains in touch with "my best friend from college," **Ricardo Salaman.**

In addition to the rolled-up carpet, **Richard Silbert** recalled a different harrowing experience for some: the infamous Columbia College swim test. Your humble correspondents recall that bathing suits were optional. In retrospect, the swim test was our first Pass/Fail course, and those who failed landed in a remedial swimming class for gym.

Also joining the re-zoom-ion was **Erik Jacobs,** a native of Morningside Heights, who joined us from his favorite bench in Central Park.

Erik recalled the Barnard frosh who was hypnotized and made to cluck like a chicken in Ferris Booth Hall during Orientation — he was sitting next to her and swears that she had no recollection of the hypnosis, let alone the clucking — and the antics on 3 Hartley, where he was placed as a freshman with some students who had been at Columbia "on the seven-year plan."

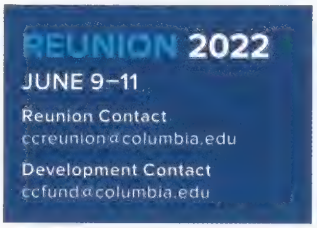
Erik claims to have gone helicopter skiing and rented Madison Square Garden to play full-court basketball for his 50th, but admits that since his knee replacements at 55 he's had to stick to bicycle riding around the city like he did in high school: "60s is the new 16," he exclaims.

Erik reports that **Harvey Sawikin** (whom he's known since fourth grade) had the B-52s play at his 60th birthday fest last February 29 (and no one got Covid-19!), that **Mark Magnier** JRN'84 has just moved back to the Big Apple after more than 30 years living and working in Asia as a journalist and that Dr. **Basilio Pace** was to be busy all summer with his latest urgent care facility — on Long Beach Island, N.J. — where Basil also teaches surfing in the winter.

Dr. **Mike Mercandetti,** a surgeon, also zoomed in, from Florida. Mike has had a few surgeries himself over the years, having just hung up his skates after a near 50-year career as a hockey player. But Mike couldn't stay for long, as he was, coincidentally, visiting with college wrestler Dr. **Steve Eskin.** Steve, now an emergency room doctor in Columbus, Ohio, also made a cameo via Mike's mobile phone.

Returning to the subject of restaurants (because reunion attendees understood that you're never far from your next meal), another favorite eatery for locals and students alike was Moon Palace, which had outstanding roast pork with bean sprouts, and other delicacies. Speaking of palaces, we encourage classmates to search the Memory Palace to generate stories for future columns. The memory palace idea is a mnemonic metaphor: You store your memories in a place you remember well. Wherever you may be, stroll out to the Sundial, grab a coffee or beverage of choice and hang out on the Steps to chart your course. We look to build on this theme in subsequent columns, and as always encourage you to share your news and stories. We understand that Class Notes remains the most popular destination in *CCT,* where we all turn first. Let's also make it our favorite part — and have some fun doing it together.

1982



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Well gents, we drew a donut this time. I guess you're all busy attempting to refurnish your homes or going out for dinner, or implementing some other home-grown economic stimulus plan.

Given the circumstances, I'll prattle on with a proud-parent moment. On January 31, my daughter Hannah submitted her Ph.D. dissertation to the London School of Economics and the following day joined the faculty of the Harvard Business School. I've decided to forgive her for this.

Other than that, I got nothin'. Hope to hear from you guys next time around. We have a really easy-to-remember email address, so take a minute to fire off a note!

[Editor's note: Columbia Reunion 2022, for classes ending in 2 and 7, and the Class of 2021, is scheduled for June 9–11. Watch your mailbox and inbox for more information!]

1983

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Greetings, classmates. I am finally making a dent in the backlogged emails sent last year. Please send updates.

Carl Birman: "After graduating from Duke Law in 1987, I worked and lived in Brooklyn for more than 15 years before launching my own law practice in Westchester in 2005. From 2005 until early this year, I worked in the family courts and local criminal courts, as well as at the Appellate Division, Second Department, as an assigned attorney on behalf of indigent adult clientele and youth and children in need of representation. Then in January 2020, my wife, Beth; son, Jared; three cats; small lizard; and I relocated to the Albany suburb of Colonie, N.Y. Just before the Covid-19 shutdown we sold our house and got the heck out of Dodge, so to speak. I took a position as assistant county attorney with the Albany County Department of Law prosecuting child maltreatment and abuse matters in Albany Family Court as well as handling fair hearings involving child protective investigations. It's compelling, challenging and important work. In many ways Albany in 2020 reminds me of Brooklyn in the 1980s.

"Although I am probably the antithesis of an active Columbia alumnus, I frequently have occasion in my professional life to brag about graduating from college with **Barack Obama,** even though I never had the good fortune to meet the future President; indeed I did not even know his name until many years after graduation.

"Not only does a Columbia degree still mean so much, it is also a piece of my sense of having grown into the person I am today thanks to living, studying and working in the city with all its challenges, grit and excitement in the 1980s and 1990s. Also, every couple of issues I do enjoy reading the Class Notes, and I'm happy you tracked me down to be included in this section."

Dante Alencastre: "Oh, boy! I think that I was probably smoking too much weed, like Barack, to remember much about campus life. What I do remember well, and changed my career path, was I started as a premed student, and attended a Columbia Players play in the black box in Ferris Booth as a sophomore.

"I was already a theater buff, but that experience made it more accessible. The group was a little snobbish and I never thought that they would give me a chance, but in summer 1980 I studied with Ionesco in Paris and that impressed them, so that fall I directed *The Bald Soprano* and *The Lesson* and I cast a male student to play the role of the female lead. That was pretty subversive for us then. I have been a storyteller ever since, for the last 15 years a documentary filmmaker based in Los Angeles.

"Alas, I don't keep in touch with anyone from the class, but most of the gay guys I knew died of AIDS or left NYC. I did run into my first crush a couple of years back. He is a CC'84, and he and his husband came to one of my NYC screenings. It was great fun to see him after all these years.

"This week I am locking picture on my latest documentary, *AIDS Diva: The Legend of Connie Norman* (2020), about the late trans activist, an icon of L.A.'s ACT UP chapter and pioneer spokesperson of the trans community in the late '80s and early '90s.

"My mom passed away almost 10 years ago and that is the only family I had aside from my chosen family here and in NYC.

"Thanks for sending me down memory lane. Follow me @dalencastre."

Eduardo Diaz-Perez: "I am a managing director in credit risk management for Credit Suisse, running the Real Estate and Asset Management team. On a whim I enrolled in a civil war history class taught by

James Shenton '49, GSAS'54 and it is my most memorable education experience ever. I remain in contact with **Brian Neary SEAS'83, Ken Popovec** and **Tom Doyle,** all of whom I met freshman year. Married for nearly 40 years to Melissa, and we have three adult daughters."

Gardner Semet BUS'91: "I took over as the business line manager of the commercial real estate lending department of Israel Discount Bank of New York this past March. Ninety percent of my time is spent working from home. My son, Victor, who worked all through the lockdown with my wife, Daphne, at Mount Sinai Hospital, decided to move into NYC. Both Victor and Daphne are participating in a coronavirus vaccine trial. My daughter, Gabriella, made the opposite decision and moved back to Pompton Lakes, N.J., in June.

"I am in contact with **Doug Novins** PS'87 and **Jon Ross.** Doug is a pediatric psychiatrist in Denver, and Jon is running his charity, MicroAid, from New York.

"I hope you and the rest of our class are well, and I look forward to a time when we can all be together again."

Michael Azerrad: "I now have audiobook versions of two of my books. Famed former MTV anchor and *Rolling Stone* journalist Kurt Loder read *Come as You Are: The Story of Nirvana* and Jeff Tweedy, Sharon Van Etten, Fred Armisen, Stephin Merritt, Jonathan Franzen and many others read chapters of *Our Band Could Be Your Life: Scenes from the American Indie Underground 1981–1991.*

"I profiled Merge Records founder and Superchunk leader Mac McCaughan '90 in *Columbia* magazine's Winter 2019–20 issue (bit.ly/3BwnoMt). I'm at work on an annotated version of *Come As You Are*, with a publishing date TBA."

Michael Broder: "The year 2020 marked some important anniversaries for me. Ten years ago, I finished my long-deferred doctorate in classics at the CUNY Graduate Center, with a dissertation on queer kinship and camp aesthetics in Juvenal's ninth satire. Twenty years ago, I met Jason Schneiderman, the man who would become my husband in 2004. Thirty years ago, I became HIV-positive. I'm grateful for the years of life and health I've had, and I hope anyone reading this will take a moment to think of the Columbia peers we lost to AIDS. As for more recent news, my husband's fourth book of poems, *Hold Me Tight,* came out in 2020. Jason insists the title is not a Beatles reference, but I suspect my friends **Jordan Shapiro** and Lou Orfanella '82 would have a thing or two to say about that."

Dion Macellari: "In these crazy times it's been a blessing to have Columbia years to think back on and from time to time drift away for a minute. Recently, I was talking with a friend about my junior fall semester in Paris at Reid Hall, where I met two of my oldest friends, **Jeff Thomas** PS'88 and Andrew Weisman '82. These are friends I've had for almost 40 years, which is pretty amazing.

"Last December my mother passed away at 90, after a brief illness. It was a perfectly timed exit and up until a month before she had been incredibly energetic, taking daily long walks and visiting a nursing home regularly to provide companionship to hospice patients.

"I've been a professional artist for more than 30 years, working first at various NYC ad agencies. When I moved to Los Angeles in 1991, my focus shifted to the entertainment industry and I have been doing murals, art for TV, theater, concerts and film ever since. Most recently I did the paintings for the Judy character in the Netflix comedy *Dead to Me*. Other notable shows include *New Girl* and *United States of Tara* as well as a sequence in *500 Days of Summer.* I consider myself incredibly lucky to be able to do what I love and get paid for it."

Wayne Allyn Root: "Just another 'Only in America' story for this CC'83 grad. I've been in the sports gambling business my entire adult life. Within two years experts believe 40-plus states will have legal sports gambling. I recently went public with my company, now called Winners Inc. And we recently announced our new national spokesman, Pete Rose. When I was a kid, he was one of my heroes. What an honor to spend time with 'Charlie Hustle' and now call him a personal friend. As Don King used to say, 'Only in America!'"

Looking forward to catching up with you at CU sporting events. My sons and I still have our same seats for the basketball games behind the CU bench.

1984

Dennis Klainberg
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Celebrity Spotlight Time!

Since our last power-packed column, this writer regrets his failure to push you guys (and gals) for fodder via e-blast, as is my wont (and of course, there's nothing to stop you from pinging me, as the kids say, at your convenience). Then, literally, in the 11th hour, as a result of a meeting between my brother Joshua (senior VP of the NY League of Conservation Voters) and — as it turns out, a fellow denizen of Nassau County — a long lost friendship was rekindled, leading to this most amazing contribution.

Ladies and gents, I give you **John J. Giuffré:**

"I went to Penn Law and, after a short stint of big-firm life at Morgan Lewis, I have embraced the life of a small-firm lawyer trying personal injury and medical malpractice cases, as well as the occasional commercial and estate matter.

"Columbia College will always have a close place in my heart because I proposed to my wife, the former Lauren Dippel, at our five-year reunion in Low Memorial Library. (FYI, my teenage daughter pilfered my five-year reunion T-shirt and made it her own!) Two of our groomsmen, Horace Cocroft '85 and Ignazio Fazio '85, were my friends from Plimpton Hall.

"It was great catching up with **Dennis Klainberg** recently and comparing notes on all the friends and professors we knew in common — **James Weinstein,** Professor Jim Shenton '49, GSAS'54; Professor Walter Metzger GSAS'46; and so many other luminaries among the Columbia College faculty.

"With Lauren's help, I started my own law practice in 1993 and have never looked back. Giuffré Law Offices is a team of 10 of the nicest, most dedicated and most capable people you would ever want to meet. Check us out: giuffrelaw.com."

Love his catchphrase: "Don't delay, call Team Giuffré!"

John continues: "As a Long Islander with two adult children (John Paul, a recent Villanova grad; and Danielle, attending Providence College), my lifelong interest and participation in public service politics took a new turn. I was nominated to run for the Nassau County Legislature in the 8th Legislative District, where we have lived for 30 years. This run has been motivated by a deep desire to maintain the suburban quality of life that we currently enjoy in the 8th Legislative District, which encompasses Franklin Square, Floral Park, Bellerose, Bellerose Terrace, West Hempstead and portions of Elmont, New Hyde Park and Stewart Manor.

"I would love the support of fellow Columbians for this run for elected office. Please like our Facebook page: Giuffre For County Legislature.

"It was at Columbia where I learned — courtesy of Professor Metzger — so much about the Progressive Republicans, such as Theodore Roosevelt, and his initiatives to protect the environment, which means so much to me. From Teddy Roosevelt and the National Parks to Richard Nixon and the Clean Water Act of the early '70s, Republicans have an honored tradition of being good stewards of the beauty and quality of the natural world God has given us. I hope to continue that tradition. Professor Shenton ignited a lifelong interest in military history.

"Columbia College opened so many doors for me, both intellectually and practically, and I am always grateful for the education I received. Loved the Core Curriculum! Roar, Lion, Roar!"

Subject to our Spring/Summer 2021 column's "Spotlight on Eli White," we heard from none other than my CUMB bandmate Dr. **Thomas D. Shin,** assistant professor

Dion Macellari '83 has been a professional artist for 30-plus years, and is now in the entertainment industry creating murals, art for TV, theater, concerts and film.

of ob/gyn at Columbia University Medical Center/NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital: "I also was a resident of Eli White! That was one crazy semester to start freshman year. I'm pretty sure **Mark Siegel** also lived there with us."

1985

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First of all, I hope that you and yours remain safe and well, and that we, individually and collectively, will enjoy a healthy and prosperous balance of 2021. For so many of us, 2020 was a year of many challenges. Thanks to many of you for your observations about the impact of Covid-19 on your world.

Luis Miniet reported, "Our offices in NYC were one of the first to close down in early March with a confirmed case of Covid-19. We then quickly realized that we could not even gather with our three grown children (in three different cities) because of so many unknowns ,including the severity of the virus. In those first few months we lost one of my children's godparents and several older relatives of friends and acquaintances. The biggest fear was the unknown ... how long, how bad and how will we find a way to defeat the virus? Although things were very difficult, one positive effect was the opportunity to reconnect with friends and family (even if by phone or Zoom) and reconfirm how important they were to us. I hope this is something we can keep and expand thanks to the pandemic.

"Around the middle of the year, my employer, TIAA, offered a voluntary separation package in an effort to reduce expense to the company given the forecasted effects of the pandemic. I took the package and the opportunity to move closer to friends and family and headed to South Florida. The move has also given me the opportunity to start a new professional chapter. I am looking for my next adventure using my expertise in change management, business transformation and M&A integration. I am reconnecting with alumni in South Florida, who have been a great resource in offering their advice and recommendations. As with so many who have gone before us, I continue to benefit from our great education and Columbia network of extraordinary people."

John Phelan "missed singing the most, seeing my daughter Unity perform at Lincoln Center and hanging with my other three great kids in NYC. As for me during Covid-19, I met a woman, and followed her to Charleston, where I hung out for five months, realized she was not for me and came back to NYC. My dog, Toby, was my constant companion. I learned that I love dogs more than I thought I did. I now say that when I die, I hope that where I go is filled with dogs. I am happily in a new relationship. Found someone else who loves dogs, among other things." John sent a great *Spec* article about dogs in the time of Covid: spectator.org/dog-adoption-covid-new-best-friend.

Judah Cohen GSAS'94's twin boys, Jordan '21 and Jonathon '21, graduated this past April. "I was really looking forward to returning to campus to celebrate but the entire graduation was virtual. So definitely a Covid-19 bummer.

"We had all of our children home with us from March through September. I felt bad for my sons, missing the Columbia campus experience, but it was nice having this unexpected time with all of our children. That for me might have been the most rewarding consequence of Covid. Maybe you would be particularly interested in this as well: I started drinking coffee regularly during Covid, something I never did. My daughter and son-in-law also moved in with us and they brought with them their Keurig machine, and I got hooked. I really look forward to starting my day with a cup of coffee. They took their Keurig when they left in August but I bought a Nespresso machine and a French press and I enjoy both. Now instead of commuting in the morning I drink coffee, a win-win for me!"

Seth Radwell notes: "I have been working for two years on a book project, *American Schism: How the Two Enlightenments Hold the Secret to Healing Our Nation* (June 2021). It has an introduction by Professor Jonathan Israel, one of the world's most renowned academics of the Enlightenment, and has been endorsed by both academics and journalists, including Ana Navarro from CNN, Pulitzer Prize-winning author David Garrow, Yale Professors Jacob Hacker and Stephen Darwall, and Harold Meyerson from *The American Prospect* and *The Washington Post*. See americanschismbook.com."

Fortunately, the world rolls on with our normal activities. **Tom Wheeler** is still practicing maternal fetal medicine in Fort Wayne Ind. His son, Evan, is a USMC designated marksman in Eastern Virginia, awaiting deployment.

Thank you, Evan, for your service.

Paul Bongiorno is proud to report that his son Gabriel will attend Harvard Law School this fall.

Getting into school these days is a special challenge, particularly at the College. You might have heard that applications were up 50 percent, with more than 60,000 students seeking admission. Less than 4 percent of students were offered admission. No idea how I would come close to getting in today

As for my Covid experience, we were truly very fortunate. My wife, Allison BC'86, had Covid-19 in March 2020, and although I was asymptomatic (aside from a few evenings with slight chills and a bit of a stomachache), I had positive antibodies through all of 2020. We spent a month in Florida last winter (two two-week stretches), where Zoom meetings are just like a Zoom meeting in New York. I have been back to the office pretty much full time in 2021. The majority of our employees had Covid at one point or another. Gratefully, no one was severely ill, although several folks have lingering symptoms.

For those of you who have left the New York area, it is astonishing how quiet the Midtown business district remains as of this writing. I hope by the time you get this issue, as Broadway shows and more regular office visits return, activity will look a bit more normal, although the impact on the economy is likely to linger for some time.

My true pride and joy are my three kids, out conquering the world in their own way. Isaac '14 was part of *The New York Times*'s Pulitzer Prize-winning team for its coverage of Covid. He assisted on some of the programming and has also been working extensively on its election coverage. He and his wife celebrated their first anniversary/delayed wedding celebration in Vermont in September. Noah is enrolled in graduate studies at UC Berkeley, while working/climbing at the leading climbing gym and in Yosemite. Josh is enrolled at Miami in an M.B.A. program, and spent the summer in Tennessee calling games for the Kingsport Axmen, a program under MLB supervision.

And to help transition out of Covid, I've been at Citi Field every chance I get. Columbians who joined me included Corey Klestadt '86, Leon Friedfeld '88 and several Law School classmates.

If you are on campus, at Homecoming (Saturday, October 16) or at football games, please let us know who you run into, and what folks are telling you. And keep sending me your updates. This column gets pretty boring without you!



JOHN MOSC

A June 25 celebration at The Flying Lobster, in Red Hook, Brooklyn, marked the 75th birthday of Don Hahn, former Columbia Jazz Ensemble director and legendary trumpeter. Gathering were former Jazz Ensemble members (left to right) Mark McGowan, Paul Foglino '84, Gil Aronow '83, Ted Houghton '87, Mike Skrebutenas '86 and Frank Napolitano '86.

1986

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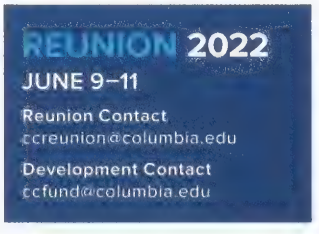
Imagine if I told you in 1986 that in 2021, our 35th reunion would be canceled due to a global pandemic, and in its place, we would have a video reunion in which we'd socialize together on our computers or cellphones. As a cocky 22-year-old, you would first joke at how freakin' old we would be then. And then you would be shocked that there was a pandemic but you would at least understand what had transpired. It would be most difficult for you to comprehend that we filmed ourselves at home and met virtually through something called the internet. I have to admit, though, that there is nothing like seeing each other in person, particularly friends we haven't seen in years. The very definition of a reunion is physically returning to campus, eating and drinking together, and reliving old times with friends. So the virtual reunion did not do it for me. Oh well, I hope we'll party twice as much at our 40th in 2026. Until then, my strong advice to you is carpe diem and YOLO. If there is something you've always wanted to do, don't wait!

You Sung, however, was more positive about the experience. "I attended reunion and particularly enjoyed the 'Today's Columbia College Student Experience' segment and the Virtual Social Hour. I will say that the former was quite enlightening, as I was essentially a commuter student for my first three and a half years. I'm in my 26th year in private practice as a gastroenterologist in a large group in Eastern Connecticut. I have a wife and two sons: one in college and the other starting to look at some."

Scott Weber wrote: "Having gotten divorced about four years ago, I remarried two years ago. Alicia and I were able to get in an extended honeymoon to Australia and New Zealand before the world shut down. I stay busy with my small law firm (Norris & Weber), specializing in trust and estate litigation. I also am a mediator for trust and estate controversies, which I really enjoy. We have a small (112-acre) ranch an hour and a half northwest of Dallas, and I relish getting away to hunt, fish and tinker in my woodshop. I hated to miss out on our 35th, but look forward to catching up soon. Let me know if anyone's travels will bring them through north Texas."

Frank Napolitano: "Was able to catch up with **Mike Skrebutenas** and other Columbia University Jazz Ensemble alumni in June when we attended a 75th birthday get together/gig for our former band director, trumpet player Don Hahn, who still sounds great (see the nearby photo). Mike is a senior VP at Community Preservation Corp. in Albany. My days are spent as the risk manager and insurance director for the Catholic Archdiocese of New York. In September, my novel, *Day of Days*, about the fire service at the World Trade Center on 9-11, will be published. It's based on my experiences there that day, and afterward at Ground Zero with my volunteer fire company."

1987



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As the world begins to emerge from the pandemic, we can start looking forward to our next reunion, which is less than a year away. How wonderful it will be for all of us to gather together again in person!

Lloyd Lim reached out: "The pandemic lockdowns gave me more time to focus on the piano, which I began as a freshman at CC. I recently played for my current piano teacher a transcription of Beethoven's *5th Symphony,* which shows that one can learn an instrument even if starting relatively late."

Sally Patrone represents indigent criminal defendants by day and paints and writes at night from her home in Beverly Hills. In June, she had three paintings in the Spectrum Gestalt 8 show at bG Gallery at Bergamot Station. Sally is also looking to connect with a publisher for a legal thriller she wrote.

In sad news, you have probably heard by now of the June passing of **Eric Rogers.** His news has graced our column many times over the years. **Nancy Rabinowitz Friedman** was gracious enough to share some of her reflections with us: "Eric and I met during Freshman Orientation and started dating before freshman year even officially began. We were together for almost our entire college careers, and stayed in touch regularly in the decades since. After college, Eric moved back to Los Angeles, where he worked for a short time in banking, and then — as Angelenos do — went into the entertainment business.

"Eric's biggest success was in the reality TV genre, with a few extreme sports shows that were popular in the East Asian market. Eric spent a lot of time in Thailand, and spoke Thai fluently. It was amazing to see the astonishment on people's faces at Thai restaurants when he started to chat! In 2006, while on a trip in Thailand, it was discovered that Eric had advanced thyroid cancer. When the usual treatments failed, Eric pulled his two kids out of school, and he and his wife took them on incredible international adventures: He wanted Ethan and Lindsay to witness and share his love of travel, and to make memories that they could treasure when he was gone. But then he was put on an experimental drug, and lived 15 more years. No one lived those years more fully than Eric. He was an unbelievable enthusiast, relentlessly positive and upbeat until the end. Eric's wish was to visit 100 countries — he made it to 77 — before he died on June 10, 2021, surrounded by his family and his fiancée, Kate.

"Eric was an indomitable force. We disagreed about almost everything except that we valued each other's friendship and the history that we shared. I will miss him always." [Editor's note: See "Obituaries."]

[Editor's note: Columbia Reunion 2022, for classes ending in 2 and 7, and the Class of 2021, is scheduled for June 9–11. Watch your mailbox and inbox for more information.]

1988

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Our classmates continue to inspire, impress and occasionally warm our hearts. One example is **Nairi Checkosky Balian,** who offered her thoughtful reflections on some relatable experiences.

"My family and I are grateful that we have made it through this difficult time and finally see some light," she wrote. "We lost a dear uncle and sweet cousin early on in the pandemic and we are left with beautiful memories and a sadness we have yet to fully realize. We are moving onward and upward, though, keeping in mind that there is no room at all for division in society — and I know we all hope that the world comes to understand this as we all realize how intertwined we actually are when things start to unravel.

"As for Columbia, I remain very involved, serving on the Columbia College Board of Visitors and volunteering as a Class Agent and for the Alumni Representative Committee," Nairi continued. "It is so wonderful to connect with fellow alumni. I have said a number of times (to many people!) that volunteering in any capacity should be meaningful, easy and fun. Meaningful, because we should be having an impact; easy, as it shouldn't be something that is onerous and painful; and fun, as we all have enough going on in our lives and our work that volunteering should bring us a measure of joy. And working with such fantastic alumni and staff at Columbia especially has been all three!"

Jeff Katz, who has been at the Boston office of the Ropes & Gray law firm since 2001, has used teleworking as an opportunity to meet **Aaron Pressman** for regular coffee stops at the French Press Bakery & Cafe in Needham, Mass. "A good day turned great if Aaron's wife, **Whitney Connaughton,** joined," Jeff said. "Aaron recently left *Fortune* to join *The Boston Globe* to cover technology for that paper's business section. Whitney is a United States and Canada HR leader at Mercer."

Carlos Cruz sent a note about world-class chef **Anita Lo,** who received the Chevalier dans l'Ordre du Merite Agricole from French Consul General Jeremie Robert in New York. Robert praised Anita for her dedication to the French culinary arts and for being "a pioneer who paved the way for more diversity and more women in the field of cuisine," according to the Consul General's tweet.

Chapeau, Anita!

Congratulations to **Adrienne "Rennie" Brodeur** for winning the New England Society Book Award last year. "After a career spent in publishing and helping other writers find their voices, I finally carved out time for my own writing," Rennie said. "In 2019, my memoir, *Wild Game: My Mother, Her Lover, and Me,* became a national bestseller, and while on book tour, I had the opportunity to reconnect with some classmates. *Wild Game* is currently in development, so with luck there will be a film. I also just sold my next book, a novel, which will publish in spring 2023.

"I am the executive director of Aspen Words, a literary nonprofit and program of the Aspen Institute, a job I love and that takes me to Colorado frequently," Rennie added. "After living in New York for 25 years, my family and I relocated to Massachusetts (Cambridge and Cape Cod) in 2019, where we enjoy a less urban and hectic existence. I would be thrilled to connect with any fellow Massachusetts- or Colorado-based classmates. I hope you all are thriving, and I look forward to hearing your updates."

Shari Hyman enjoyed a dinner with classmates in Chelsea Market. "I wish we had taken photos ... we simply enjoyed each other's company," Shari wrote. "**Claire Theobald, Stephanie Schwartz** and I got together for dinner at Buddakan. (Yes; we are still that cool!) Claire has relocated to Charleston, S.C., from NYC, and Stephanie has a new job with Tufts's Fletcher School as director of communications, public relations and marketing. With Claire in town, we used it as an excuse to have a post-vaccination dinner together.

"I changed jobs just before the pandemic and am now heading up government relations and external affairs for Turner Construction Co.," Shari said. "It is not a new job in that I've been there 18 months, but given the pandemic, it certainly feels new to be in-person at a full office again.

"The three of us managed to stay healthy and busy during the pandemic, with the upside of Zoom making it easier to connect more frequently than we otherwise would have."

Stay in touch! We look forward to our classmates' tales from the post-pandemic world — both of new paths taken and familiar patterns renewed. Be well.

1989

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As I write this column this summer, we're happy to be shaking off the pandemic (I hope!) and beginning to reconnect. It was wonderful and reassuring to hear from so many of you — thanks for writing in with your inspiring updates. From planting a stunning garden in a previously dead patch of Earth (**Margaret Cosgrove!**) to discussing Russian cybersecurity threat on *This Week with George Stephanopoulos* (**Niloofar Razi Howe!**) our classmates found myriad ways to live fruitfully during the last year or so.

From **Anne Pfitzer** (whom we happily claim as Class of '89 even though she graduated in 1988!) "Greetings from your not-very-frequent Class Notes contributor. Quarters were tight in our Takoma Park, Md., home with two adults working remotely and two teens doing virtual school for all but a few final weeks of the school year. I and my oldest son spent six weeks in Maine last summer, and we are repeating it as I write this. He found summer jobs and I can still work remotely for a couple of remaining months. What will normal look like in the fall? Probably not exactly how it was before. But thankfully all of us are vaccinated. The same can't be said for hundreds of my colleagues who live in low- and middle-income countries around the world. So international travel is still likely to be on hold for a while yet."

Thomas Spencer's son is now officially employed by alma mater! Tomas writes that he is "very proud to say my son Michael now works for Columbia! He is a research assistant in the Research Foundation for Mental Hygiene. He is on the path to becoming a clinical psychologist. I spend my time lately in my pool and reading the latest by Christopher Paolini. My mother's new book, *Miriam's Life,* is due out soon. My daughter is in her third year at Mount Saint Mary College."

A huge congrats is in order for **Tim Kelly,** who had an "interesting 2020" but for a vastly different reason than the rest of us. Tim writes: "I waged a campaign for mayor here in Chattanooga (an adventure in and of itself in the midst of pandemic) and managed to actually pull off the caper in April of this year, after a long and grueling campaign and a subsequent runoff. So, I'm writing you from the Mayor's Office two months in, just really starting to dig into the bulk of the work around (really interesting) public policy challenges. I was fortunate to be joined by a few classmates on the night of my victory: Brent Forrester '90, **Wade Graham, Mike Falk** and **Tim Cabot.** It was quite an evening."

See the nearby photo!

From the West Coast, Columbia University Trustee **Wanda Holland Greene** TC'21 wrote in on her first day of vacation to catch us up on what she's been up to during the pandemic and her experience as head of Hamlin School, a K–8 all-girls school in San Francisco: "After leading Hamlin nearly nonstop since the pandemic descended, I am proud that I opened the school in the fall for in-person instruction five days per week. Doing so required courage, decisiveness, collaboration and the conviction that opening schools was essential to excellence in education, equity and the economy. By the end of the school year, it was so gratifying to have so many people vaccinated and feeling more calm and joy as the city reopened. We hosted two graduations — maskless and in-person — because the regulations had shifted by the time we hosted our ceremonies for the Classes of 2020 and 2021." In addition to being Hamlin's head of school, Wanda worked throughout the pandemic as a trustee and vice-chair alongside **Lisa Landau Carnoy, Victor Mendelson** and **Julie Jacobs Menin** and as a member of the Columbia Alumni Association and working on the Task Force on Inclusion and Belonging. Of this experience, Wanda says, "It was also wonderful to be a part of several Columbia virtual panels that brought truly inspiring programming to alumni worldwide." And if that wasn't enough to keep her busy, Wanda finished another master's during the pandemic (a master's of education in organizational leadership from Teachers College), and writes, "So I am a three-time graduate of Columbia! Roar!"

Congratulations and thank you, Wanda!

I caught up with another educator, **Peter Metsopoulos,** who said the pandemic "has been like entering The Upside Down." Peter is the founding director of a Leadership & Entrepreneurship Institute at a K–12 private school in Baltimore, and he worked throughout the pandemic to meet his school's equity promises while the school worked to bring students and faculty back safely. Peter says, "Hybrid teaching and training was ... not ideal, but we persevered, and I feel lucky for the health of my family. This summer saw me bringing my son back for his third year of college at UMD, seeing my daughter off to her first year at Parsons (another excuse to visit NYC!) and preparing my youngest for his 10th-grade year. Having helped



CASSIDY DICKENS

Tim Kelly '89, the recently elected mayor of Chattanooga, celebrated his win on April 13 at the Chattanooga Brewing Co. with (left to right) his wife, Ginny; son Cannon; son Jack; and Tim Cabot '89. Also joining the party but not shown were Mike Falk '89 and Brent Forrester '90.

the Leadership Institute weather the storm, I'm off in search of new adventures in building innovative programs in education or the nonprofit sphere, and happy to talk with anyone who wants to partner or brainstorm (pmetsop@gmail.com)!"

Jason Carter wrote in that his summertime "highlights" plans were to reconnect for the first time in a year with his sister, Jamie Carter Jorif '91, SW'93, and her husband, Darien Jorif '92, SW'97, on a short vacation to Vermont. Jason wrote: "As I write this I'm on day three of a 10-day journey by car from Washington, D.C., to Los Angeles, where my son will be moving to work in Hollywood for William Morris Endeavor, the big talent agency there. I've passed through the Cumberland Gap and visited Nashville and now Memphis. I am traveling alone and will visit Little Rock, Oklahoma City, the Texas panhandle, parts of New Mexico, the Grand Canyon, Las Vegas and finally L.A."

Bonnie Host has been sharing some lovely photos on Instagram of outdoor walks with her older brother, who is a couple of classes above us at Columbia. Bonnie writes, "We hadn't seen each other for more than a year We had so much fun spending the weekend together!"

David Halberstam writes another hopeful note: "I have been on the faculty at the University of Michigan Law School, along with my wife, since 1999. (She teaches voting rights and anti-discrimination law, I teach constitutional law and EU law, and we've both been worried our fields might go extinct.) The big news is that our daughter is a member of the Class of 2025! Her twin brother and older sister are on the East Coast, too. I hope folks are holding up in these difficult times. And if anyone has advice on empty nesting, do let me know."

Dolores Sukhdeo's (née Wilson) middle son, Charlie '25, is also now on campus. "He's a double legacy with both me and my ex-husband, his dad, Devand Sukhdeo '90," Dolores notes.

Congrats!

In case you missed the announcement in the Spring/Summer 2021 Bookshelf section, my Carman 11 suitemate **Beth Kissileff** edited *Bound in the Bond of Life: Pittsburgh Writers Reflect on the Tree of Life Tragedy*, an anthology with essays written by journalists, academics, rabbis and other community members, which reveals a city's attempts to cope, make sense of and come to terms with the shooting at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh's Squirrel Hill neighborhood. In the book the three impacted congregations are able to reflect on their experiences in a raw, profound way, and local reporters who wrote about the event contribute stories that they were unable to earlier. This is Beth's fourth book.

Happily, some of our classmates' offspring have now joined us as Columbia alumni—Congrats to **Rob Laplaca** and **Cristina Benedetto, Raymond Yu,** and **Pat Ryan SEAS'89** and **Jen Fudge Ryan** and your kids!

Speaking of Cristina, a huge, heartfelt thank you to her for writing such a great column for us in the Spring/Summer 2021 issue. And also wanted to let you all know that our Winter 2021–22 column's guest writer will be Berkeley, Calif.-based **Erik Price.** Please contact me if you're interested in guesting a column, and don't forget to check out our Facebook group, Columbia University Class of 1989 Undergraduates. If you have a problem joining, contact **Jared Goldstein:** facebook.com/jaredbgoldstein.

1990

Rachel Cowan Jacobs
youngrache@hotmail.com

This is an exciting column for me to write and I hope for you to read, because many classmates are making their first appearance! First off, **Ramon Camacho,** who majored in English literature and then earned a J.D. from Penn in 1993. For more than nine years, Ramon has led the international tax practice in the national tax office at RSM US, the fifth largest accounting firm in the country. His daughter graduated from high school in June and starts at Northeastern this fall. During the pandemic, he was a CC mentor to an undergrad English major and says he found it immensely rewarding.

Folks, if you're looking to add meaning to your life, sign up for the Odyssey Mentoring Program through the Columbia College Alumni Association: college.columbia.edu/alumni/odyssey-mentoring.



MIKE JACOBS

Longtime friends (left to right) Sharon Rogers '90, Rachel Cowan Jacobs '90, Laura Frank '90, Judy Shampanier '90 and Robin Wald SEAS'90 gathered in Silver Spring, Md., on June 27.

Sam Bae, a gastroenterologist with a specialty in cancer prevention, is fellowship-trained at Memorial Sloan Kettering in New York. He is the past chair of gastroenterology at Hunterdon Medical Center and is currently professor of medicine at Hackensack Medical School. He's also chair of The Asian Cancer Prevention program at Englewood Hospital. Sam has been married to Jade Bae, a malpractice attorney, for 24 years, and no, they did not meet in the courtroom. They are almost empty-nesters, with three children who attend/ed Harvard, Boston U and Boston U, respectively, and the youngest almost out the door, as Sam puts it. In college, Sam was part of the CC-Juilliard program, and today we can find him playing violin with the Bergen Philharmonic Orchestra, and on the tennis courts, where Jade routinely wins. He regularly sees Auggie Cheh SEAS'89, BUS'91 and Monica Kim BC'90, and caught up with **Luke Shin,** who was visiting from Korea.

Lara Beaty had planned to dance for a few years after graduation and before starting graduate school, but her dance career ended prematurely when she was hit by a car during a 1991 Gulf War protest on the Brooklyn Bridge. The accident secured her commitment to activism on a range of social issues and brought her to union work. Lara is a professor of psychology at CUNY LaGuardia Community College, and is the Professional Staff Congress CUNY LaGuardia Chapter chair. The PSC represents 30,000 CUNY faculty and staff. Lara recently finished a sabbatical, the timing of which was both good and bad. Good because it meant not having to continue to teach online during the '20/'21 school year, but bad because planned travel abroad was canceled and plans for a book were postponed. Lara earned a Ph.D. in developmental psychology from the CUNY Graduate Center in 2005. Her research is about student-school relationships, with a focus on development and the struggle to succeed in college. She lives in Astoria, Queens, with her children, Styliane ("Stella") Apostolakis-Beaty (she/her), who is currently attending City-As-School H.S., and E. Terrence Apostolakis-Beaty (they/he), who is 22 and busy with art. When Lara was married, the family spent a few years in California and Idaho, but she says she's much happier back in the Big Apple.

Wade Anderson emailed from Westchester County, N.Y. He married Leslie Cohen BC'90 in 1995, and they have two sons, one of whom graduated from the University of Miami in the spring and the other who is a junior at CU Boulder. Leslie has been teaching in Ardsley, N.Y., since graduation, initially for first-graders and now in the middle school. Wade earned a Ph.D. in psychology from Fordham, and later did psychoanalytic training in Westchester, where he works in private practice. He keeps in touch with his dear friends and former throwing teammates from the track team, **Chris Young,** Seth Dailey '91 and Marc Volpe '89, as well as

his high school quarterback, **Terry Elliot.** In closing, Wade says, "I miss the ease of seeing everyone on the Steps or milling about on campus. Great memories!"

Brent Byerly wrote from his home in Phoenix. He met Teresa, the most gracious person he knows, right after graduation and has been married to her for 26 years. Their children are Bryan (22), who majored in business administration in college, enjoys sand volleyball and was job hunting as of June; Kaylee (21), a junior at Wheaton College, majoring in Spanish, following a pre-med track and on the volleyball team; and Ben (14), already 6-foot-5 and the family's tech guru. Brent spent his first 19 years after Columbia in property casualty insurance. In 2010, they bought an Aqua-Tots Swim School franchise and now have two year-round, indoor locations in Phoenix. What the future holds, only time will tell, Brent says.

Our final first-timer is **Michael Anastasio.** In September, he and his wife, Annmarie, will celebrate their 23rd anniversary. They have three daughters: Bianca (20), a senior at Temple; Carla (19), a sophomore at SUNY Cortland; and Daniella (16), a high school junior. Mike says, "After growing up in Brooklyn and attending CU in NYC, my wife dragged me, kicking and screaming, to suburbia about 20 years ago. We have lived in Massapequa, L.I., since then. I have remained active on the alumni front, specifically in regard to football. I am on the board of the Columbia Football Players Club, which helps raise money for the football program as well as provide guidance and support to current Columbia football players through a mentoring program. I have found participation in the CFPC mentoring program quite rewarding: It has allowed me to give back by lending a helping hand to players in need of off-the-field guidance as they navigate their way through the challenging experience of playing D1 football while handling the academic rigors of Columbia. I was even asked to write a Rhodes Scholarship recommendation letter for the first player I mentored several years ago. I felt more pressure than writing a 10-page Lit Hum paper freshman year!

"I regularly see and/or speak to several of my former teammates. A couple of years ago, **Paul Tomasi** was honored at the annual Columbia Football Alumni Golf Outing. The showing of support for Paul was fantastic, as several of our teammates, including **Scott Buitekant, Larry Rancilio, Brad McCormick, Mike Pennekanp, Will Knight, Chris Reed, Ed Takvor, Mike Henry** and **Paul Myott,** showed up, many of them traveling from out of state to do so. In addition to the aforementioned classmates, I also keep in contact with **Greg Palega,** who lives in Sweden, as well as teammates including Chris Della Pietra '89, John Alex '89, Dave Putelo '88 and Mike Bissinger '88. I will try not to wait another 30 years before submitting more news."

When we last checked in on **Lauren Bauer Zinman,** her twins were about to enroll at Columbia. Now they are seniors and her youngest is a first-year at Harvard. Preparing for their empty nest, she and her husband bought a house in Southampton, N.Y. While walking their two Shih-Tzus, they bumped into **Jim Barkley** and his wife walking their dog, Lila. Turns out they have a house five properties away from Lauren's. Jim recognized Lauren from her Columbia hat! It pays to dress well.

Lauren Z. often sees **Lauren Roberts** (née Felton), who has been a public defender at the Bronx Legal Aid Society since 1993. Lauren R. is teaching a legal writing class at Fordham Law this fall, has a son who is a junior at Columbia and has a daughter earning a master's at Columbia in communication sciences and disorders.

With respect to the pandemic, **Justin Abelow** LAW'95 reports, "After some months of work from home spent largely in Tuxedo Park, N.Y., the Abelow family has returned to Manhattan, at least for weekdays. This event has been met with various degrees of relief by the human members of our family and with sheer, unadulterated disgust by Mopsy the Wonder Dog."

Domestically, the increase in vaccinations and the decrease in Covid-19 cases has improved the lives of so many, in multiple ways. A positive impact it has had on my life is the ability of my children to have gone to sleepaway camp in June, and days after their departure, to host in my home (without masks) for the weekend **Laura Frank** (née Shaw), **Judy Shampanier, Sharon Rogers** and **Robin Wald SEAS'90** (née Zornberg). Too much fun, too little sleep and not enough time together. We remain eternally grateful for Columbia Housing's matching skills and our general good fortune that we ended up not only roommates but also lifelong friends. See the nearby photo!

I look forward to hearing from you about your news and good fortune so we can read about you in a future column.

Brent Byerly '90 and his wife bought an Aqua-Tots Swim School franchise and now have two year-round, indoor locations in Phoenix.

1991

Heather E.G. Brownlie
heatherhj@yahoo.com

Heather E.G. Brownlie writes: "Our 30th reunion festivities were an amazing success thanks to our Reunion Planning Committee co-chairs, **Laurel Abbruzzese, Kenyatta Monroe-Sinkler** and **Alexandra "Lexi" Diamond,** who did a fabulous job from start to finish! And who can forget the An Evening of Cocktails, Music and Magic event with the Foodie Magician? Our amazing co-chairs were awarded The President's Cup on May 24, 2021, for their efforts toward reunion planning and for their enthusiasm and spirit! A huge thank-you to everyone on the Reunion Committee for all that was done to make our 30th virtual reunion a reality!"

It was so great to see **Betsy Kalin** recently when she visited Orlando the week of our virtual reunion, and to help her start the next chapter in her life. She reports: "It was amazing seeing our classmates at the virtual reunion! I especially want to thank the Reunion Committee for inviting me to share my award-winning documentary, *East LA Interchange.* Of course, our classmates had amazing questions! The best part of reunion was spending it with **Heather E.G. Brownlie** and her husband, Douglas Smith. My wife, photographer Chris Chew, and I stayed with them as we prepared to move from Los Angeles to Orlando, where I accepted a position teaching in the Film Program at the University of Central Florida.

"I'm also continuing my work as a documentary filmmaker on my projects *Dreaming in Somali,* which follows four Somali Americans in their daily lives as they confront racism, Islamophobia, sexism and police violence while advocating for their Twin Cities community; *Phoenix: The Life and Death of Alice Herz;* and *Lesbians in Boystown.* Additionally, I'm one of the producers on Kenneth Eng's *Birth of an American Museum,* a timely documentary that addresses anti-Asian sentiment and the need to protect Asian cultural resources through the story of the Museum of Chinese in America. In March, my film *Vision 2030: Future of SoCal* won the Golden Mike Award for Best Television Documentary from the Radio and Television News Association of Southern California. The Emmy-nominated documentary premiered on Spectrum News 1 to two million households.

"My background is in social impact documentary and I strongly believe in the power of storytel-

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ling to inspire dialogues, challenge perceptions and educate a wide audience around issues of human rights, peacebuilding, and social and environmental justice."

Betsy's films are used by hundreds of universities, libraries and community organizations worldwide.

Dr. **Marc Eisenberg** PS'95, a cardiologist and one of the authors of *Am I Dying?! A Complete Guide to Your Symptoms and What to Do Next,* now has a weekly column: doctoroz.com/rounds-dr-eisenberg-health-myths.

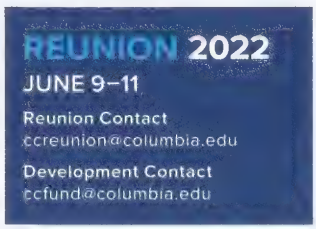
Alethia Jones reported from Brooklyn: "I'm director of the Open Society Fellowship Program at the Open Society Foundations. I credit the 'village' of Eme, Christopher and Natalie for the love and support needed to complete my Ph.D. (Yale 2005). And still dancing."

Chris Petrovic checked in from Switzerland with this update: "[As of June,] it's now been about six months since we moved to Switzerland, and we have very much enjoyed getting to know our new country, and were looking forward to traveling around Europe this summer (safely and fully vaccinated, of course!) as the situation continues to improve and borders start to open up. We have no timeframe for whether and when we are coming back to the United States, so we are treating this as a one-way trip, at least for now! We're always happy to see and host CC'91 classmates. If you find yourself in Switzerland, please let me know."

Jimmy Windsor reported from his home in Iowa: "I am director of pediatric cardiac anesthesiology at the University of Iowa Stead Family Children's Hospital. It's a great place to work, and you might have heard of it on the news, as the hospital is located across the street from the football stadium. At the end of the first quarter the whole stadium stands up and waves to the children (bit.ly/3karQdF). My daughter graduated from NYU this past spring with a dual major in mathematics and psychology."

It has been so wonderful for me to work with our class as class correspondent and to see so many of you through the various reunion activities this past spring! I encourage you to submit news and notes to me at the email address at the top of the column, or through the Class Notes webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note! Wherever you are and whatever you are doing, we want to hear from you, so please take a moment to submit today!

1992



Olivier Knox
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Hello, classmates! I don't think I shared a wee update of my own. SiriusXM laid me off in late 2020, and I have found a new home at *The Washington Post.* I'm the lead writer of The Daily 202 newsletter about policy and politics. Please consider subscribing!

With that out of the way: I heard from **Rachel Gleeson,** a landscape architect, "which I love. For the last 20 years I've worked for Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates. The MVVA project that most New Yorkers will probably know is Brooklyn Bridge Park," Rachel wrote. "I live in beautiful Seattle with my husband, Matt, and our amazing daughters, Luci (18) and Charlotte (14)."

And a June 24, 2021, article in *The New England Journal of Medicine* bears the byline of one **Hilary R. Hatch** Ph.D. "Missing the Point: How Primary Care Can Overcome Covid-19 Vaccine 'Hesitancy'" looks at our national vaccine strategy to date, notably the focus on large centers over getting Americans the jab where they regularly get family care.

"Going forward, the sidelining of primary care clinicians and the health systems that people trust could hinder progress and undermine equity, especially if booster shots become necessary," Hilary and her co-authors write.

David Abbott reports: "I've been a music therapist for the last few years (having gone back to school to get an M.A. at NYU). This June I began work on my Ph.D. in Lesley University's doctoral program in expressive therapies. I plan to pursue research on the impact and experiences of disabled music therapists."

And I heard from **Benjamin Ortiz:** "I've been at Regeneron for two years as senior medical director in immunology. I've had a long academic, FDA and industry career since graduating from Mount Sinai med school in 1998. Most importantly, my older daughter graduated from Elon University this past May (and has a job!), my younger daughter graduated from high school and is now attending UT Austin and my wife and I had our 25th wedding anniversary in August."

A little personnel update, via the White House, on July 9: President Biden has nominated Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti** SIPA'93 to be ambassador to India. From the 300-plus word statement: "Garcetti earned a B.A. and M.A. at Columbia University, where he was a John Jay Scholar." As I write this, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee has not yet set a confirmation hearing date.

Self-described "class update newbie" (and, really, many more of you should be emailing) **Susan Welber** says she lived in NYC from graduation until just a few years ago, when she moved with her husband, Eric, to Garrison, N.Y.

"I've been a lawyer at The Legal Aid Society for nearly 20 years, focusing on social welfare (after a corporate welfare big law stint). My most recent career highlights include being lead counsel on a case challenging the Trump administration's 'public charge' rule and teaching poverty law at Fordham Law as an adjunct professor," she says.

"Like many new Hudson Valley residents, I enjoy hiking, kayaking and checking out remote dining establishments in my spare time. I would love to connect with any alums in the area!"

During the pandemic, I've been borrowing language from real estate shows and calling myself "well-adjacent." Here's hoping you are all there, too.

[Editor's note: Columbia Reunion 2022, for classes ending in 2 and 7, and the Class of 2021, is scheduled for June 9–11. Watch your mailbox and inbox for more information!]

1993

Neil Turitz
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Well, at long last, after almost 30 years of running from this job, it has caught up with me. Greetings, friends and classmates, it is I, **Neil Turitz,** your new *CCT* class correspondent. I succeed my dear friend **Betsy Gomperz,** who ably and beautifully filled this spot for lo, the last dozen or so years, expertly corralling us and reporting our news. Betsy probably would have continued in the role indefinitely, but the combination of a thriving law career, two teenagers at home and a little internal bureaucracy here all ganged up on her, and so she decided it was time to move on. Thanks, Betsy, for all your hard work.

Enter Turitz, to what I hope will be the great entertainment of classmates, and I suspect the deep chagrin of the *CCT* editors.

Sadly, I must start with devastating news. After 25 years of health issues and ongoing battles with cancer, **Mike Sardo** died on July 2, 2021. Mike was a spectacular athlete in college, and genuinely one of the nicest people I've ever met. A real mensch. A GoFundMe campaign has been started for his wife, **Kathleen Johnson,** and their two sons (bit.ly/3e2QMQj). I'll write more about Mike in the next issue.

There's no easy way to segue into this next item, so I'll just jump into some exciting news that has been in the works for a long time now, which I can finally share publicly. As of July 1, the scholarship fund begun in honor of our 25th reunion has been officially renamed to honor our class and the woman who started the fund, my dear friend and Reunion Committee co-chair, **Rachel Mintz,** who died of cancer just months before the reunion she worked so hard to shape and plan. The fund is now known as the Class of 1993 Rachel Mintz Memorial Fund (college.givenow.columbia.edu). Every penny goes to aid graduating seniors, and each scholarship is $25,000. I ask everyone to contribute so that we can help a minimum of four seniors each year, and in our reunion year of 2023, we double that. I believe it's a goal we can reach.

For the Spring/Summer 2021 issue, my Carman 11 floormate **Joe Calcagno** wrote in with a wide-ranging report about his life and those of several classmates. For reasons not worth exploring here, only Joe's news made it into the issue, but now I'm happy to share the rest of it.

Joe writes, "Every time I receive *CCT* I go right to our Class of 1993

column, and I see nothing. I have a few hours to kill so I will give you some updates.

"I spoke with **John Cerza.** I remember meeting him and **Gus Leming.** Cerza's first words to me were, 'How much do you bench press?' Cerza practices law in New Jersey. His oldest child, Jack, plays lacrosse at Villanova. I am not sure how much Jack bench presses.

"**Billy Basso, Mike Jelinsky, Scott Spivey** and I are on a text strand, so we speak often. Billy has three girls with his wife, Danielle. His oldest daughter, Juliette, attends Bucknell and plays softball. Jelinsky has three kids with his wife, Kristie, and coaches an impressive 13U AAU basketball team, the Ivy Lions. Spivey and his wife, Teena, have four children. They keep him very busy.

"**Ari Perlman** and I had a Zoom call with Alexandra Luchow Rosenberg BC'94 and Nancy Soleymani Badner BC'94. Both Ali and Nancy are both married with beautiful families and look exactly the same as they did 25-plus years ago. We had a ton of laughs. Ari has two children with his wife, Hillary.

"I saw **Joel Cramer** at a wrestling tournament. Joel's son is following in the old man's footsteps. **Des Werthman** has two daughters with his wife, Katie, and owns, like, 65 horses. His daughters are equestrians, and it's comforting to know that Des spends way more money on his daughter's equestrian sport than I had to on my daughter's Irish dancing.

"As for me, my beautiful wife, Julie, and I have four kids. They are all good kids, as far as I know. I've put on a couple pounds since 1993, but I still have all my hair. I may even bench press more than **John Cerza.** As for the rest of you, including but not limited to **Julie Davidson Hassan, Betsy Gomperz, Ali Towle** and **Sandra Johnson,** send in some updates. Looking forward to the 30th reunion!"

Speaking of reunions, our long-lost classmate **Jeff Sweat,** who left school after our first year for his Mormon mission, then showed up at our 25th reunion and became an instant favorite among the attendees, had us fairly terrified last winter as he battled Covid-19. Jeff was in a coma for three weeks, the ICU for five and the hospital for two months. He said that he and his wife, Sunny, "were strengthened by all of our Columbia friends who supported us." They're now writing a memoir about it, tentatively titled, *From Covid, With Love.* There was also a lovely piece about them on *CBS This Morning,* which aired Father's Day weekend (bit.ly/3yPGV8B).

Jeff is an author. His first novel is the YA thriller *Mayfly.* **Paul Sangillo** LAW'96 is likewise published. His first novel is the thriller *The Golden Prison: Legal Mystery.* A sequel is already on the way.

Another lawyer, and very dear friend of mine, **Alan Freeman,** along with his wife, Remy, have joined the ranks of empty-nesters. Their younger son, Matthew, heads off to his first year at the University of Rochester, with older brother Teddy in his junior year at Elon University. Alan was exceedingly proud of Teddy's summer internship with the Israel Association of Baseball in Tel Aviv. "It's not only his dream job," Alan said, "it's mine, as well!"

There's still time for you, Alan!

Keeping with the theme of proud parents, a host of classmates have produced progeny who will extend the Columbia tradition by entering the Class of '25. **Rhanda Moussa** and **Dan Gillies SEAS '93** are thrilled to be welcoming their daughter Mimi Moussa Gillies '25 into the Columbia family, as is **Eric Alto** GSAPP'96, whose daughter Chloe will be in the same class. "Needless to say," Eric writes, "I am so proud of her and look forward to her creating her own experiences and memories at the place that was, and continues to be, so formative for me!"



ZUZANA RIEMER LANDRES

Left to right: Rabbi Jessica Zimmerman Graf '95, Allyson Baker '95 and Shawn Landres '94 in Washington, D.C., on June 28. As Landres put it, the get-together was "entirely unexpected and unplanned until fewer than 24 hours beforehand; after three weddings, six baby namings and one (Zoom) bat mitzvah, it was the first time we managed to get all of our respective spouses and children — not to mention ourselves — in the same place at the same time."

Aileen Torres Martin TC'00 shared that her daughter Lucía — a National Merit Scholarship finalist who dreams of becoming a biomedical engineer — accepted her admission to the SEAS Class of 2025. The proud mama says, "I could not be happier with her choice! She is going to the greatest college in the greatest city in the world!" The same can be said of Leah Barcelo, daughter of **Luis Barcelo,** who joins the Barnard Class of 2025.

Fabulous news all around, that Columbia continues to be a multigenerational experience for so many.

Old friend **Jennie Kim Harman** likes to lament that her life is boring, but she's actually got her hands full. She and her husband, Jason, have two kids, son, Jack (9), and daughter, Ellie (5), and recently "bought a house and schlepped to Scarsdale after decades of happy living in Manhattan, most recently the Financial District."

Not sure how anyone could call living in FiDi "happy," but whatever.

Jennie is a lawyer, and is the manager, enforcement counsel, for CME Group in the rough and tumble, high-stakes world of derivatives and futures exchanges, and recently complained about the end of the wonderful FX drama *Pose,* which completed its three-year run in June.

Rebecca Boston moved to Baltimore from her native Texas, and wants everyone to know that she is happy to meet up with any and all for crab cakes or an Orioles game if you're in the area. Meanwhile, **Kate Steinhacker** said, "Although I read the *CCT* Class of '93 report every time it comes out, it's too embarrassing to contribute any news, so I would prefer to continue to be a troll."

You're not alone, Kate; otherwise this column would be 10 pages long each issue.

I'd like to end on a personal note. After years of being in the dating wilderness, I have finally found my match. Jessica Goldberg '03 Dartmouth and I are getting married on October 10 in the Berkshires. The ceremony will be small, with a larger celebration in New York City in November (which will double as a combination 50th/51st birthday party and sort of mid-cycle reunion) for any and all who would like to join. More details to come this fall on the CC'93 Facebook page, so if you're not yet a member of that group, go ahead and join, even if you're not a Facebook person (facebook.com/groups/cc93reunion). It's where all the cool kids are!

I will leave you with a threat: If you don't reach out to me with news of your life, I will be forced to use this space to complain about my awful fantasy baseball team, and nobody wants that.

1994

Leyla Kokmen
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Exciting news from **Stephanie Geosits,** who has taken on the role of executive director of the Carnegie Initiative, a recently announced not-for-profit focused on building diversity and inclusion in hockey throughout Canada and the United States. The foundation, named in

Stay in Touch

Let us know if you have a new postal or email address, a new phone number or even a new name: **college.columbia.edu/alumni/connect.**

honor of hockey legend and social justice pioneer Herb Carnegie, will work with partners across the sport, including teams, leagues, brands and academic institutions, to promote the success of diverse audiences in hockey, address issues in the game on all levels regarding diversity and provide academic grants and other incentives to those who are positively changing the sport. Steph's new role builds on work she did at the National Hockey League, launching the league's first diversity programs.

In other news, **Erik Groothuis** was recently appointed to the management committee of his law firm, Schlam, Stone & Dolan. **Marina Groothuis** (née Gurin) is running marketing and sales operations for software company SundaySky. Their older daughter, Maddie '24, is in her second year at Columbia and anticipates a "reorientation" after spending her first year learning remotely. Their younger daughter, Maya, is in her senior year in high school.

Ayanna Thompson (née Parish) shared news from Phoenix, where she was recently promoted to a Regents Professor, the highest honor at Arizona State University, and has been elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Ayanna has also joined the board of the Royal Shakespeare Company and is on the staff at the Public Theater as its Shakespeare Scholar in Residence.

And finally, **Kay Bailey** has taken on a new role as proposal manager for M.C. Dean, a government contractor specializing in design-build, communications, electronic systems, energy and automation. When not working, Kay continues to create art, including innovative projects with some of the many, many cicadas that emerged in the D.C. area this past spring.

Thanks to all who shared these great updates — and congrats! Hope the rest of you are all staying well. Please send in your news!

1995

Janet Lorin
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Thanks to **David Light** SOA'03, who answered my call for an update. He and his wife, Rabbi **Sharon Brous** GSAS'01, send love from Los Angeles, where they celebrated their 24th anniversary in May.

"David is creator and executive producer of Disney's *ZOMBIES* trilogy, which your kids can catch on Disney+. Sharon is the founding rabbi of IKAR, a justice-driven Jewish community that's the spiritual home to many Columbia alumni.

"Sharon blessed President Biden and Vice President Harris at the Inaugural National Prayer Service in January, and led the White House Seder with Second Gentleman Doug Emhoff this spring. Her 2016 TED talk, *Reclaiming Religion,* has been viewed almost 1.5 million times (bit.ly/36EJPRG).

"They have three eye-rolling kids (17,14, 12) who wish their parents would stop writing about themselves in the third person and go make dinner already," David writes.

See the nearby family photo!

Jed Weiner; his wife, Veronique Nussenblatt; and their girls, Emilie (7) and Eva (4), live in Potomac, Md. Jed is head of corporate at the boutique Washington, D.C., law firm Mei & Mark, known for its IP practice. He founded grIP Venture Studio, an accelerator alternative where investors and entrepreneurs can engage professional and sector specialists on an a la carte basis, as a division of his law firm last year. Jed deactivated from the Navy Reserve as a lieutenant commander in 2012, and was officially discharged last year. Veronique, an infectious disease physician, is associate director of the Infectious Disease Fellowship Program at the National Institutes of Health Clinical Center in Bethesda.



ALON GOLDSMITH

David Light '95 and Rabbi Sharon Brous '95 (center) with their children (from left), Levi Brous-Light, Sami Brous-Light and Eva Brous-Light, posed for the In Place | Portraits of a Pandemic photo project in Los Angeles on May 18, 2020.

Rabbi Sharon Brous '95 blessed President Biden and Vice President Harris at the Inaugural National Prayer Service, and co-led the White House Seder.

Send your news to me by email or use the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note! Photos should be sent right to *CCT* using the Class Notes photo webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo.

1996

Ana Salper
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Happy fall, classmates! I hope you had a great summer. What a whirlwind this has been since last year at this time. I, for one, enjoyed traveling again and being able to spend time with loved ones I had not seen in ages. I hope you did too.

I loved seeing many of you at our virtual 25th reunion, but let's face it — it just wasn't the same as it would have been in person. I held out hope that maybe the virtual format might bring those of us spread around the world closer together, but alas, the lure of Zoom is not quite that of Morningside Heights. I get it. Here's to future reunions, whether formal or informal.

Some notes from the virtual reunion: Kudos to the wonderful classmates who participated in the Covid-19-focused Class of 1996 panel: **Tom Bollyky,** director of the Global Health Program and senior fellow for global health, economics and development, at the Council on Foreign Relations; **Ravi Amaravadi,** associate professor of medicine at Penn Medicine; and **Barbara Antonucci,** partner at Constangy, Brooks, Smith & Prophete in San Francisco. The panel was very interesting and dynamic, and expertly moderated by **Harriet Ryan,** a Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter at the *Los Angeles Times.*

I enjoyed the Mixology Happy Hour virtual get-together as well, seeing many familiar faces and friends: **Whitney Chiate, Pete Freeman, Daria Ibn-Tamas, Noah Corman, Elizabeth Yuan, Moha Desai, Michelle Esposito, Mila Tuttle** and many others. In the spirit of being honest, however, those of us who took the Columbia Bartending Agency course (was anyone sober during that practical exam?) felt, shall we say, that it was not the most innovative mixology course ever. The dialogue, however, made up for it. My favorite moment was when the mixologist reported that another Columbia class explained where Columbia's light blue/white color scheme had originated: Thomas Jefferson, who apparently was taken with the color light blue. Really? Given that Jefferson not only had zero connection to NYC, and that his political rival was Alexander Hamilton CC 1778, we all raised our eyebrows at that one. Thank you to **Pete Freeman,** who reported that the color scheme originated from the Philolexian Society, one of the oldest college literary and debate societies in the United States and the oldest student organization at Columbia. Columbia's blue is "Philolexian Blue," and it was combined with white, which was the color of the Peithologian Society, a debate society founded in 1806 at Columbia, four years after the founding of the Philolexian Society. I found that bit of Columbia history fascinating, and particularly so given the absurdity of the "Thomas Jefferson" theory advanced by another (clearly less informed) alumni class.

I wish I had more to report from our reunion or otherwise, but alas, I do not. Which means that all of you need to send me more notes! Stay safe, stay well, and consider this:

"Those who stand for nothing fall for everything."
— *Alexander Hamilton CC 1778*

1997

REUNION 2022
JUNE 9–11
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Kerensa Harrell
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Dear classmates, I hope that you are doing well and that you enjoyed a nice summer!

Michael Wachsman has a nice long update for us: "As each successive issue of this magazine is published, I more acutely feel how remiss I am in not having provided any recent updates, so I am communicating now to rectify this omission.

"Let me take you back to the pre–Covid-19 days, as a lot has happened in the intervening years. My wife and I have been living in Riverdale (the Bronx) since 2000. Through the subsequent years, our family has grown to six, and to the point where we felt too crowded in our apartment. Realizing that if we didn't move soon we never would, we performed some renovations to our apartment, put it up for sale and, to our amazement, received three offers within a few days at full ask without having even had time to post any pictures. This was in 2018. So we moved to a rental apartment — a far smaller place than we already had, but we had to take what we could get — for a strict one-year deadline, hoping to find a house.

"As it turns out, with the entire continental United States at our disposal we could only agree upon a 10-block radius from where we already were. The housing stock here is minimal, and overpriced. So the months passed. We were getting desperate, and almost had to resort to the unthinkable prospect of moving to New Jersey. But as fate would have it, before that dreaded possibility came to fruition, we managed to snag a house from an estate sale; the sellers, after years of an unsuccessful listing, just wanted to be rid of it and accepted our offer. The house was very modern — if you lived in 1940, the last date the kitchen was redone. It also took forever to close, as the sellers, who did not have their paperwork in order, had to track down every single living relative, including some in Poland.

"Suffice it to say we had no time to finish renovations by the time we needed to move out of our rental at the end of summer 2019, and ended up moving into the house without even having hot water. Our kitchen sinks were installed a week before Rosh Hashana, and our dining room table was put together three hours before the holiday started, which was rather important because we had invited 15 people for the meal.

"But we consider ourselves lucky — we got in this house just before everyone needed to be confined to one for months on end. Now almost exactly a year later, my elder daughter commented, 'It just dawned on me. Rena's [my younger daughter] class was one of the first quarantined in this country!' And so it was. She and her classmates were in the epicenter, attending the same celebration in New Rochelle that started it all. At the time (early March 2020) we were wrestling with whether to have her bat mitzvah. It was not at all clear what to do, and upon inviting input from my daughter, whom we advised it likely that fewer of her friends than expected would be attending, she decided to cancel it. And of course that was the right decision, as having a celebration then would have been a superspreader event — plenty of people who had planned on attending, we found out later, were in fact infected but didn't know it. (The irony is that sitting here now, exactly a year later, the poor girl is again quarantined for her second successive birthday. At this rate she's shooting for a sweet 16.)

"But she bore it with grace, we all made the best of the situation and salvaged what we could from the year and the summer. My elder daughter established a backyard camp for a couple of weeks, and launched a small baking business. My younger daughter learned how to ride a bike and taught herself Spanish. She and I also went kayaking practically every Sunday, and she is now turned on to a healthy, outdoor activity she wants to continue and that we can share. I consider that a win! Deprived of the walking I usually did for my commute (up and down a steep, long hill) I went on frequent and lengthy outdoor jogs and got to explore some really nice local trails.

"On the professional front: My wife, a psychologist who specializes in treating people with anxiety, is busier than ever. As for me: surprisingly, after a panic-induced but temporary lull that seized the real estate markets, the self-storage sector, in which I am professionally employed, has done remarkably well. I was lucky to be able to make some key hires, employing first an associate, then two analysts, then a transaction coordinator. This gave us the bandwidth to do more deals.

"Our company, Andover Properties, already one of the top companies in the sector, has forged some key partnerships, with Blackstone and Angelo Gordon, through which we were able to literally double the size of our holdings within one year, and this torrid pace is still continuing into 2021. I find myself working harder and longer than ever, not only because of the volume of work, but also, paradoxically but I imagine not uniquely to me, the result of saving commuting time, which has then been transformed into longer working hours.

"I, probably like most of you, am a bit stir-crazy from all this but did manage to salvage a short vacation to Lake Placid this January. It was quite fun — a few days of skiing, some ice skating on a lake and snowmobiling. It was the first vacation I took in two years. I recall with envy what I did two summers ago: In lieu of my son having a bar mitzvah party, he wisely (and not without some soft encouragement on my part) opted to accompany me on a bucket-list trip, in which we hiked and rafted the Grand Canyon. Can't wait to do these things again, and in fact I am planning my next trip already this summer, Covid or not. Hope the rest of you are holding up."

Michael Wachsman '97 took his first vacation in two years this winter, to Lake Placid, for a few days of skiing, some ice skating on a lake and snowmobiling.

Thank you, Michael, for that update!

As for me, **Kerensa Harrell,** I was delighted to get to attend my daughter Amara's two dance recitals this spring, one for her ballet class and the other for her tap dance class, which were at different studios. She is just 4 and these were her first dance recitals. Due to the pandemic, the ballet recital was held outdoors (luckily, we have a large outdoor stage in our neighborhood) and broken into five smaller acts in order to keep crowd size down during each act. It worked out well because instead of me having to sit through a three-hour recital, I only had to sit through one 30-minute recital and then the audience got dismissed at the end of each short act. And then her tap dance recital, which was choreographed to the bubbly song "Under The Sea," was shown as part of a student movie at our local movie theater rather than presented as a live performance. It was really exciting for the children to watch themselves on the big

Contact CCT

Update your address, email or phone; submit a Class Note, new book, photo, obituary or Letter to the Editor; or send us an email. Click "Contact Us" at **college.columbia.edu/cct.**

screen at a real movie theater. During the filming at the studio, their tap dance routine had been recorded with a green screen behind them, so that the video editors could add animation to the movie, which then added to the children's glee when they watched themselves performing in an animated movie.

I wish you all a wonderful autumn and winter as I sign off now and sprinkle you with some magic dust from a few hopeful lines of my daughter's recent ballet recital:

"Star light, star bright, first star I see tonight ...

"I wish I may, I wish I might

"Have the wish I wish tonight

"We'll make a wish, and do as dreamers do

"And all our wishes will come true!"

Blessings to all, please say safe during the pandemic and do send us your updates.

In lumine Tuo videbimus lumen.

[Editor's note: Columbia Reunion 2022, for classes ending in 2 and 7, and the Class of 2021, is scheduled for June 9–11. Watch your mailbox and inbox for more information!]

1998

Sandie Angulo Chen
sandie.chen@gmail.com

Hello, Class of '98. I hope that by the time this issue arrives, most of you are back to work, school and your post-pandemic lives. I haven't received many updates this year but did want to congratulate proud mother **Anne Ugarte**, whose oldest daughter, Chiara, graduated from high school in June. Chiara is attending Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, N.Y. Anne, who lives in Manhattan, is a senior client relations manager at Ingram Content Group.

Another set of congratulations are in order to **Lisette Camilo**, who welcomed a beautiful baby girl, Celina Grace, on April 2, 2021.

Best wishes to the two moms on their daughters' milestones!

Share your news with me via the email at the top of the column or the Class Notes webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note! Photos should be sent right to *CCT* using the Class Notes photo webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo.

1999

Lauren Gershell
lauren@gershell.com

Hi, everyone. I am thrilled that several of you wrote me to share life updates; please keep them coming!

Juliana Gebb PS'04 (née Sanchez) has been moving frequently in pursuit of becoming a fetal medicine expert. After graduating from P&S and training at Montefiore in the Bronx, she spent a year learning fetal surgical techniques from experts in Paris and London. Upon return, she left Brooklyn for Philadelphia and is now a fetal medicine and surgery specialist at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. She and her husband, Luke, enjoy a busy Philly life with their boys, Matteo (14), Alec (11) and Jude (9). Juliana sends love to her fellow Columbia alums and can't wait to get back to seeing friends when the pandemic officially ends!

Natasha Johnson is an artivist (activist and artist), advocate, academic, attorney, entrepreneur and yoga instructor. She was also recently appointed executive director of the North Brooklyn Coalition Against Family Violence, which supports survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault by challenging the systemic racism, institutional injustices and cultural barriers faced by survivors by creating a community-based support network, providing supportive services and engaging the community through outreach, education, advocacy and activism.

Rahwa Haile lives in Bed Stuy, Brooklyn, and has a 3-year-old daughter and a 7-year-old son. Her wife is a marketing executive and makes documentaries. Rahwa is a social epidemiologist who earned a Ph.D. at the University of Michigan in 2009 and is an associate professor of public health at SUNY Old Westbury. She is interested in the ways in which Black populations in the United States have been systematically deprived of the social determinants in health, in large part due to the centuries-old "lie" identified by James Baldwin: the belief that Black people are less valuable than those in other groups. This lie has shaped policy for centuries, through ahistorical discourses that reproduce the notion that Black health and social inequities are driven by their own allegedly deviant nature. Rahwa argues that eradicating racial inequities in health requires acknowledging "the lie" and its consequences, rejecting it and choosing to instead adopt policies that value Black life. Only then will it be possible to unravel centuries-old, calcified patterns in policy-induced health inequity. One of Rahwa's most memorable moments at Columbia, she says, were the powerful protests in favor of ethnic studies in the mid-1990s.

Please share your news with me by sending me an email or submitting news through the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

2000

Prisca Bae
pb134@columbia.edu

Classmates: Sadly, no news for this column. My hope is that you are all too busy being outdoors and with people for the first time, so I look forward to hearing those stories for the next issue. Please send me all of the news — personal, professional and anything in between! Send notes about what you have been up to via email or the Class Notes webform (college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note). Photos and captions should be submitted directly to *CCT* using the Class Notes photo webform (college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo).

2001

Jonathan Gordin
jrg53@columbia.edu

What a summer — for many, it was the first time out of a pandemic "feeling" in a very, very long time. I'm sure some of you had fantastic summer plans that we'd love to hear about. As you know, I've been reliant on social media for most of my updates, but for this column I continued my canvassing effort and reached out to another one-third of you via email. I know, who emails anymore? Anyhow, some of you do: I got great responses. I will reach out to the final one-third for the Winter 2021–22 issue. Stay tuned, or just write in before I nag you directly.

Annie Lainer LAW'06 has two boys (7 and 3) and lives in Los Angeles and says, "I am a public interest lawyer at Public Counsel advising tax-exempt organizations."

Seth Morris writes, "I live in Berkeley, Calf., with my wife, Gitanjali Morris (née Dadlani) BC'08, and our son, daughter and rescue pup. After nine years at the local public defender's office, I am now in private practice with two partners at our law firm, Cooper, Cooper & Morris. We practice criminal defense and focus on blue-collar crime, representing mostly poor Black and Brown clients on serious cases like shootings and murders. I am also on the board of the Prison Law Office, a California nonprofit that advocates for the fair and humane treatment of people in prison, jails and juvenile facilities, and on parole."

Julie Rhee (née Kim) writes, "Jason Rhee '00 and I got married in 2005 and have three children and a dog: Sydney (12), Oliver (10), Teddy (7) and Oscar (2-year-old Labradoodle).

"We did our medical training in Boston and moved to St Louis in 2012 to do our fellowships at Wash U. Jason is a trauma surgeon and I am a reproductive endocrinologist and fertility specialist in private practice.

"We moved not expecting to stay, but were pleasantly surprised and now call St. Louis home. Interesting fact: Both sets of parents moved here (from Boston and Los Angeles), and my younger sister and her family moved here from Manhattan during the pandemic. My brother, who lives in Boston, planned to move here in August as well. We can't believe it's been 20 years since graduation. We miss NYC a lot and hope to go back soon. Hope everyone is doing well!"

Cambria Matlow is a filmmaker (woodsriderfilms.com) living in Portland, Ore., with her husband, Ben, and son, Forrest (9).

Lauren Abraham Mahoney writes, "My family and I are doing great! My son (4) and daughter (11) are growing up fast. We planned to spend a quiet vacation at the beach this summer, and I was looking forward to some downtime together. About six months before the pandemic hit I left consulting and took a job at Herschend Family Entertainment (Dollywood, Harlem Globetrotters, Pink Jeep Tours, and other theme parks and aquariums). Despite the tumultuous year, I am

enjoying my role and happy to have made the switch. We have enjoyed a lot of outdoor time and hiking adventures, which has been fantastic, but are all eager to get back to traveling more soon."

I love spotting **Jonathan Lemire** on late-night cable news. While a White House reporter for The Associated Press, Jon covered the Trump administration, the 2020 campaign and the Covid-19 pandemic (college.columbia.edu/cct/latest/talking-points/reporting-trump-presidency-ap-insider). He now continues in that role to cover the daily workings of the Biden administration and has traveled domestically and internationally with the President. He also continues to be an MSNBC contributor and is a regular guest on shows like *Morning Joe, Deadline: White House with Nicolle Wallace* and *The 11th Hour with Brian Williams.* Jon lives with his wife, Carrie Melago GSAS '04, and their two sons, and is probably thinking about the Boston Red Sox as you read this.

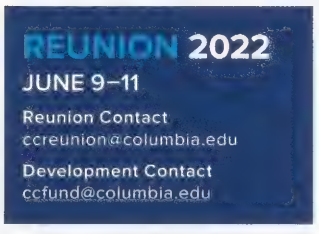
Courtney Reum writes, "I'm still living in Los Angeles (although recently bought a place in Miami) if anyone is passing through.

"M13, the consumer tech holding company I started with my brother Carter '03 about four years ago, has now started 10 brands in the last two years. We have also invested in 100-plus companies and have half a billion of assets under management.

"Lastly, I am now a godfather of eight and am proud to say that the father is **Tamer Makary,** so we need to get an update from him on his fifth (and he claims last) child, Maxima!"

Great hearing from all of you!

2002



Sonia Hiradarami
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Hi, classmates. Hope you are all well and that life is returning to a (new) normal on your end.

Brian House and his wife, Lucia Monge, recently welcomed their first child (and pandemic baby), Teo Sol House.

Jackie Karp (née Cockrell) lives in Potomac, Md., with her husband, David Karp '99, and sons (5, 7 and 10). Jackie is a physician at the FDA's Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, where she works in drug development for rare genetic diseases. She had a wonderful time catching up with **Sonia Dandona Hirdaramani** (that's me!) on a recent family trip to NYC!

Kyla Hayden (née Pavlina) works for Mesa Biotech, the firm that, at the start of the pandemic, produced the only POC PCR Covid-19 test. It was able to meet demand and grew 1,200 percent in production during the pandemic. Ultimately the business was sold to Thermo Fisher Scientific.

Jacob "Yaakov" Jaffe is a dean at a school in Massachusetts that worked hard this year "battling the epidemic" to stay open and support student learning and social/emotional health by having in-person instruction each day. All told, the school was in-person for all students each day and logged 160 days and nearly 2,000 hours of in-person instruction this year.

James Hudspeth ran inpatient floor response for Covid-19 for Boston Medical Center, Boston's safety net hospital. Sundry things on Twitter: @JamesCHudspeth.

As always, would love to hear from the rest of you! Please email your updates to me. Thank you!

[Editor's note: Columbia Reunion 2022, for classes ending in 2 and 7, and the Class of 2021, is scheduled for June 9–11. Watch your mailbox and inbox for more information!]

2003

Michael J. Novielli
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I hope that you're enjoying the start to fall and that you are all healthy and well as much of the world begins to open up after what has been a very challenging year and a half. We have some interesting updates to share, so I'll move right into them.

Katori Hall continues to achieve amazing professional success, this time having received a Pulitzer Prize for *The Hot Wing King*, a comedy-drama play that explores black masculinity. Katori also recently organized a virtual campaign event for **Marva Brown,** who is running for Kings County Civil Court Judge (District 2) in New York (marvaforjudge.com).

Justin Assad is the sailing master at Nantucket Yacht Club during the summer and the head sailing coach at Dartmouth during the academic year. He writes, "My partner and I have two lovely girls (4.5 and 2.5), and we are always down for playdates if any CC'03s with similar-aged kids are up north or out on the Cape in the summer."

Gabriel Gambardella owns Bloomfield Foot Specialists in Bloomfield, Conn., where he specializes in the diagnosis and treatment of foot and ankle pathology. His interests include reconstructive surgery, limb salvage, trauma surgery and deformity correction.

Priya Purushothaman, who continues her career as an Indian Classical vocalist and teacher/vocal coach, recently performed in an online concert organized by the NeoRakjot Foundation: bit.ly/3z2HKLn.

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2004

Jaydip Mahida
jmahida@gmail.com

Jolinda Johnson was recently awarded the CEO Shine Award by Beautiful You Coaching Academy in Australia for her work as a life and health coach. She's on a mission to change the narrative around perimenopause and give attention to the voices that are typically left out of the conversation, including BIPOC, LGBTQIA+ and people under 45. While running her business serving clients around the world, she continues to enjoy life in Barcelona as a single mom with her 7-year-old son, Leonard.

Jayanthi K. Daniel JRN'05 is the executive management officer of the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, after having worked for four years in the administration of Mayor Eric Garcetti '92, SIPA'93. She helped to found the first Mayor's Office of City Homelessness Initiatives. After starting her career in journalism upon graduation, Jayanthi says she is pleased to apply her skills in writing and communication in the social services sector, addressing the region's biggest crisis, growing homelessness.

Christine Luu recently left DC Comics to join NBCUniversal as a director of business affairs, focusing on doing deals for scripted TV series.

Milka Milliance was promoted to head of consulting, impact and implementation for Collective, a diversity, equity and inclusion consulting firm, where he oversees all executive coaching and implementation activities for fast growth startups.

That's all for this issue! Please send in updates, as we want to hear from as many folks as possible. Career and family updates are always fun, but please share about trips you may take, events you have attended or are looking forward to or even interesting books or shows you have come across. You can send updates either via the email at the top of the column or the Class Notes webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. Photos should be sent right to *CCT* using the Class Notes photo webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo.

2005

Sallie Touma
sallie@salliemathtutor.com

[Editor's note: *CCT* welcomes **Salwa "Sallie" Touma** as the new class correspondent! Share your news and updates with Sallie going forward at the email above or via the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. Photos featuring at least two College alumni (or one College alum if a wedding photo) are welcome, too! Send those right to *CCT* via the Class Notes/wedding photo webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo.]

Here are a few words from Sallie: "As the owner of salliemathtutor.com, I try so hard to make all of my students (K–12) feel confident and comfortable in their math and STEM skills. As a college math pro-

fessor, I was presented with a SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in 2019–20! I'm also happy to be back on the dating apps. Send me your news and updates!"

And here are some notes that *CCT* gathered for this issue:

Maggie Gram writes: "After a rewarding but failed foray into the academic humanities, I now live in Brooklyn (Prospect Lefferts Gardens) and upstate New York (Roscoe); am an interaction designer at Google; and am trying to write a book. My wife, Jen, and I have a new baby, Gloria ('Glory'), who turned 3 months as I write this and an Italian Greyhound named Luca. Drop a note if you're in the area and want to go for a run, or take a walk with strollers, or meet for a bourbon or hang out at Prospect Park during off-leash hours; we'd love to reconnect with old friends: maggiegram@gmail.com."

Tanya Franklin shares: "In November 2020, I was elected to the Los Angeles Unified School District Board of Education. (I was a student in L.A. growing up and taught middle school there after Columbia.) Through distance learning, an uprising for racial justice, a superintendent search and unprecedented $20 billion budget, my first year has been an incredible opportunity for change for more than a half million students. I hope many of them apply to Columbia their senior year; I recently met one who started this fall!"

Melanie Díaz updates us: "Graduated in May 2020 with my doctorate in education leadership, became Dr. Melanie Díaz, got married October 3, 2020, now Dr. Melanie Ortega!"

2006

Andrew Stinger
andrew.stinger@gmail.com

Many hearty thanks to our 15th Reunion Committee for organizing so many creative, virtual opportunities to connect. If it's possible to have such a lovely time through our screens, then I'm counting on an event to remember when we gather for our 20th! Until then, I'm grateful to stay connected with our astounding classmates through this column. Here are some updates.

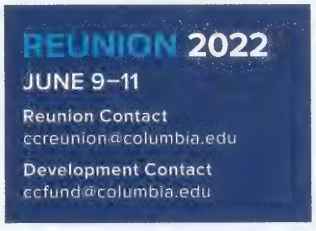
Karen Sosa joined the Los Angeles-based law firm Werksman, Jackson, & Quinn, where she practices state and federal criminal defense.

Sam Schon recently completed an M.B.A., and was named a Jones Scholar at Rice. Sam and his family remain in Houston, but enjoy escaping some of the Gulf coast summer with visits to Pennsylvania and Rhode Island.

Justin Ifill loved seeing so many 2006 faces during our virtual wine tasting, and shared his hopes that we're able to gather in person soon. Until then, he invites you to join him for a yoga class, as he continues to teach online and in person.

We would love to hear from more of you! Please email your updates to me or send them through the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

2007



David D. Chait
david.donner.chait@gmail.com

I hope everyone had a nice summer!

Fiori Berhane shares, "I completed my doctorate in anthropology in May at Brown with the dissertation *Eritrea, A Diaspora in Two Parts: Memory, Political Organizing and Refugee Experiences Among Eritrean Exiles in Italy* and will be an assistant professor in the department of anthropology at the University of Southern California. If anyone is in the Los Angeles area I would love to meet up!"

Samantha Criss (née Feingold) writes, "My husband, Jonathan, and I welcomed our beautiful daughter, Emerson Scarlett, in December 2020. Her brothers, Miles and Hunter, adore her so much. We live in Boca Raton, Fla."

Thank you everyone who provided submissions. I encourage others to share updates with the class! We'd love to hear about what is going on in your life. Feel free to email submissions to me or to submit using the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

[Editor's note: Columbia Reunion 2022, for classes ending in 2 and 7, and the Class of 2021, is scheduled for June 9–11. Watch your mailbox and inbox for more information!]

2008

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

Hi, CC'08! Thank you to **Rachel Belt** for responding to *CCT*'s call for updates. She shares:

"Rachel has been working at Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance since 2016 as a senior country manager with a focus on the equitable reach of childhood vaccines, globally. As Gavi is the host of the COVAX Facility, a global risk-sharing mechanism for pooled procurement and equitable distribution of Covid-19 vaccines, she has been leading the planning and execution of the Covid vaccine introductions with the Government of Kenya and the Government of Rwanda and key UN partners."

This column still needs a class correspondent. If you are interested in connecting, and reconnecting, with classmates and sharing their news in this column, please send a note to cct@columbia.edu with the subject line "CC'08 class correspondent." (Never fear: You'll get lots of assistance from the *CCT* staff!) In the meantime, please send us notes about what you have been up to via email or the Class Notes webform (college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note). Photos and captions should be submitted directly to *CCT* using the Class Notes photo webform (college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo).

2009

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

Hello, CC'09! The following class members replied to *CCT*'s call for news:

Maxie Harnik (née Glass) shares, "My husband, Evan, and I welcomed our second daughter, Hazel Davey, on April 16."

David Derish "was the recipient of an educational grant from The Cooper Union to develop a curriculum in sustainable art — 'Painting Green' — for the School of Art."

Thomas Anawalt spent this year of lockdown 17 blocks south of Columbia University, "caring for myself and my grandparents, Francis Cunningham and Katharine Cunningham BC'57, LS'63. The day they both received the second dose of the Moderna vaccine was a very happy day. In this challenging year, I learned to cook, became an uncle, started creating characters for online comedy projects (IG: @thomas anawalt and @onemansbeans; TikTok: @actbackwards) and became a published art photographer in a monograph of my grandfather's work. I wrote my final paper for Art Hum on one of his life-size nudes, *The Resurrection of Christ,* which features the model, Tom Johnson, an aged man, as Christ emerging from darkness. My photograph of this painting and 167 others make up a majority of the images in the book *Francis Cunningham.*"

Ralph DeBernardo and his wife, Kaitlyn DeBernardo '10 (née Busler) "welcomed their second little one into the world on June 1. Baby Liam is doing great and getting used to having a ball of energy for a big sister, Charlotte. They are coming up on their four-year anniversary of living in Austin, Texas, and love it. Ralph and Kaitlyn consider themselves trailblazers, moving long before Elon Musk and Joe Rogan. Ralph will start an exciting role in the fall as a partner with Sapphire Ventures as its head of investor relations. Kaitlyn is enjoying some time off with the baby and will return to work at Workrise, where she's helping change the future of work for the masses."

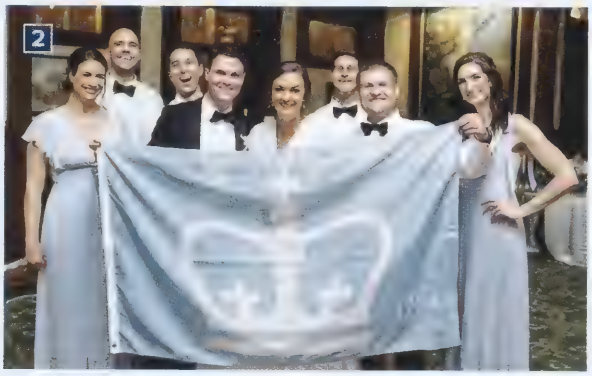
London-based **Sarah Hope** (née Ishman) "along with 17 other amateur cyclists, departed from Brest, France, to take on all 21 stages of the 2021 Tour de France as part of a team to raise funds for the U.K. charity Cure Leukaemia. Sarah was the only woman on the team and completed the entire route, arriving on the Champs-Élysées in Paris on July 11. Collectively, the team raised more than £1mn for the charity, which funds valuable clinical trials and TAP centers throughout the United Kingdom, with Sarah personally raising more than £35,000. Sarah also used the event to promote women's equality in cycling, as

Just Married!

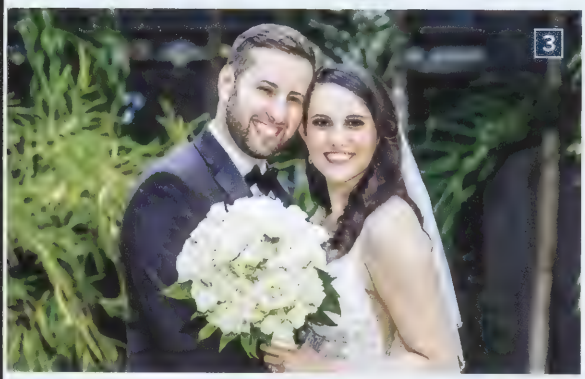
CCT welcomes wedding photos where at least one member of the couple is a College alum. Please submit your high-resolution photo, and caption information, on our photo webform: **college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo.** Congratulations!



JESSICA OH



AUSTIN HYLER



STEVE L. ROMERO



JENNIFER XIA

1. Stephanie Le and William Organek '10 were married on June 19 in New York City.

2. Paul Delaney '14 and Elizabeth Delaney (née Stachon) BC'15 were married on July 24, 2020, at the World Food Prize Hall of Laureates in Des Moines, Iowa. Celebrating were, left to right: Caitlin Stachon '10, Hamilton Garner '14, Brian East '14, the groom, the bride, Luke Eddy '14, Karson Bodnovich '14 and Lauren Dwyer '11.

3. Eugene Stolow '14 and Jennifer Stolow (née Levine) were married on May 30 at The Mayfair at Coconut Grove (Fla.).

4. Ethan Wu '17 and Amy Xia '17 were married on May 11. Here they are after getting engaged!

currently only a handful of women in the world have completed an entire Grand Tour."

This column still needs a class correspondent. If you are interested in connecting, and reconnecting, with classmates and sharing their news in this column, please send a note to cct@columbia.edu with the subject line "CC'09 class correspondent." (Never fear: You'll get lots of assistance from the *CCT* staff!)

In the meantime, please send us notes about what you have been up to via email or the Class Notes webform (college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note). Photos and captions should be submitted directly to *CCT* using the Class Notes photo webform (college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo). Have a great fall!

2010

Billy Organek
william.a.organek@gmail.com

[Editor's note: *CCT* welcomes **William "Billy" Organek** as the new class correspondent! Share your news and updates with Billy going forward at the email above or via the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. Photos featuring at least two College alumni (or one College alum if a wedding photo) are welcome, too! Send those right to *CCT* via the Class Notes/wedding photo webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo.]

Here are a few words from Billy: "After graduating from the College, I started a business to raise money from investors in Asia to invest in U.S. real estate. I lived in Singapore for about six months and Shanghai for about two and a half years, and spent time with several CC alums who called those cities home during that time. I returned to the United States in 2013 for law school, and graduated from Harvard Law in 2016 (and reconnected with several CC alums while in Cambridge). I moved back to New York following graduation, where I clerked for a federal bankruptcy judge and worked at two law firms.

"This summer has been full of changes for me. First, I married my lovely wife, Stephanie, in a small, Covid-19-appropriate ceremony attended by our immediate family (and our cat, Kitty) in mid-June (see 'Just Married!', above). On July 1, I embarked on a new career path as a research fellow at Harvard Law studying bankruptcy law. And, most importantly, I took over the role of *CCT* class correspondent from **Julia Feldberg Klein**!

"I look forward to hearing about each of your lives and sharing these details with the class!"

Here are some notes that *CCT* gathered for this issue:

Jeff Witten BUS'15, LAW'15 "founded CoinOut, a leading rewards platform for more than 1.5 million U.S. shoppers, in 2014 at the Business School. This March, CoinOut was acquired by IRI Worldwide, one of the largest market research firms in the world! Columbia was crucial to the company's success, with several business

and law professors (including Ran Kivetz) helping as investors and advisors. Jeff will stay on with IRI to integrate the CoinOut platform and create a data solution for IRI's top clients like Pepsi and Unilever. He'll then likely start his next venture that is to be determined!"

Abby Finkel (née Oberman) writes: "My husband, Bryan, and I moved to Greenwich, Conn., this summer. Our sons, Asher (5) and Parker (3), are getting settled. We would love to connect with any fellow Lions in the area!"

Dean Forthun says: "I have some fantastic updates for you all. This has been a tremendous year, filled with many life changes. In December, my wife, Ellie, and I bought our first home in Southern California on a perfect cul-de-sac with lots of young families and friendly neighbors. Several months later, on April 15, we welcomed our first child, Lorenzo Arthur Forthun. He weighed in at 8 lbs., 6 oz., and was 20.5 inches long. In June, we took a family road trip to Big Sky, Mont., stopping in Las Vegas to introduce Enzo to his great-grandparents! Momma and baby are healthy and everyone is doing well, including our lovable Basset Hound mix puppy, Sambuca."

2011

Nuriel Moghavem and Sean Udell
nurielm@gmail.com
sean.udell@gmail.com

Hello, hello 2011. College reunions just aren't the same electronically — huge thanks to everyone who helped in planning our 10th, and here's to hoping we can all meet in person for our 15th! Of course, members of our class are continuing to thrive, and we're thrilled to share their updates.

Erin Meyer LAW'11 sent her first Class Note upon celebrating 10-year reunions with classmates at the College and the Law School. After graduating through the Accelerated Interdisciplinary Legal Education dual B.A./J.D. program, Erin launched her legal career as a litigation associate at Hogan Lovells US. In 2016, she joined Proskauer Rose, where she manages the global pro bono legal services program as the firm's pro bono counsel. Erin credits the College's women's and gender studies courses with laying the foundation for her career in gender and sexuality law. At Proskauer, Erin's pro bono docket includes immigration, racial justice, housing law, disability rights, domestic violence, anti-trafficking and LGBTQ+ rights matters. She also writes for her firm's pro bono blog, Proskauer For Good.

Julia Putzeys is excited to announce that after 10 years of working in software development and getting certified as a nutritional therapy practitioner, she has launched the app Trash Panda with her company, SlyTrunk. Trash Panda empowers anyone to scan a food product to identify harmful ingredients, kind of like Think Dirty, but for food. It's been in the app stores for several months, and Julia says they can't wait to see where this exciting new adventure takes them! Julia is married to Philippe Putzeys SEAS'10, and they have one child.

Dr. **Kerry A. Morrison** PS'16 married William Bertrand Whiston on June 19. After their 2020 wedding plans were delayed a year due to Covid-19, Kerry and Will were married by Timothy Cardinal Dolan at the Church of the Resurrection in Rye, N.Y., and had the most joyous, long-anticipated celebration after at American Yacht Club, also in Rye, with many Columbians present.

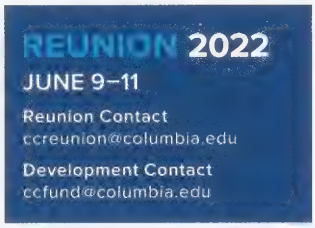
In May, **Sean Quirk** graduated from the J.D./M.P.P. program at Harvard Law and the Harvard Kennedy School. He and his wife, Sue Lee Quirk, moved to Washington, D.C., where Sean will start at the law firm Covington & Burling this fall.

In June, **Nicole Cata** started a job as director of immigrant rights policy at the New York Immigration Coalition. She and her husband, Ben, moved to a new apartment in Kensington, Brooklyn. After months of canvassing, they are thrilled that the 2021 NYC municipal primary elections have finally ended.

And your correspondent **Nuriel Moghavem** has had a year of many changes: He married his partner, Stephanie Muscat, in March; finished residency in June; and moved back home to Los Angeles in July to start a fellowship in multiple sclerosis and neuroimmunology at the University of Southern California. He looks forward to attending the delayed weddings of, like, a half-dozen 2011 colleagues in the coming months.

That's all we've got for this issue! Thank you, as always, for sharing your updates and keeping us abreast of what's going for you. You can always send us an update via the emails at the top of the column or through the Class Notes webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. Photos should be sent right to *CCT* using the Class Notes photo webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo.

2012



Sarah Chai
sarahbchai@gmail.com

Meredith Bedi (née Perry) is happy to share that she and her husband, Amit Bedi SEAS'09, BUS'18, relocated from New York City to San Francisco in late July. She recently joined Modern Fertility (a Ro company) and looks forward to connecting with old and new Columbia friends on the West Coast. Please reach out at meredith.bedi@gmail.com if you're in the Bay Area.

Keating McKeon earned a Ph.D. in classical philology from Harvard in May 2020 with a dissertation exploring the role of nostalgia in fifth-century BCE Athenian constructions of autocracy. He published a separate piece, *Barbarians at the Gate: Herodotus, Bisotun, and a Persian Punishment in Egypt,* in the Fall 2020 issue of *American Journal of Philology*. In July 2021, he began a multiyear appointment as Preceptor in Expository Writing at Harvard, which allows him to pursue writing projects on topics both ancient and contemporary while offering courses of his own conception and design. Keating is currently teaching a class on the intersection of sports and politics in the last century of American life, as well as a seminar on the diverse receptions of contagious disease in the cultures of ancient Greece and Rome.

Kristin Simmons will exhibit a new series of photographic works inspired by Slim Aarons. They will be premiered at Rosenbaum Contemporary in Palm Beach, Fla., this November (palmbeachthenandnow.com or on Instagram, @palmbeachthenandnow).

It's always heartening to hear from classmates, so I hope to hear from others soon! We love to hear what our classmates are up to! Please feel free to reach out to me via email or the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. Photos should be sent right to *CCT* using the Class Notes photo webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo.

[Editor's note: Columbia Reunion 2022, for classes ending in 2 and 7, and the Class of 2021, is scheduled for June 9–11. Watch your mailbox and inbox for more information!]

2013

Tala Akhavan
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Classmates, I have no news to share this time, but don't be shy about sending me some! Use the email above or the Class Notes webform (college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note). Photos and captions should be submitted directly to *CCT* using the Class Notes photo webform (college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo). See you in the Winter 2021–22 issue!

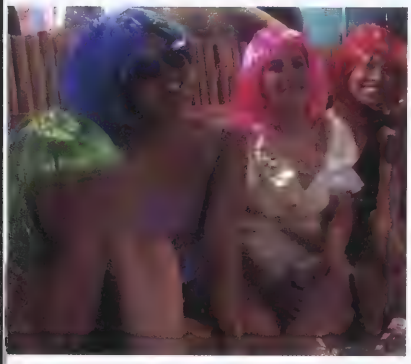
2014

Rebecca Fattell
rsf2121@columbia.edu

I hope you are enjoying the fall season. As always, please feel free to reach out to me or submit updates via the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. We love to hear what our classmates are up to! Photos should be sent right to *CCT* using the Class Notes photo webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo.

Amanda Tien married her longtime partner, Dr. Sam Kaplan, in April 2020. Amanda recently started an M.F.A. program in creative writing at the University of Pittsburgh. She is enjoying writing her first novel, doing freelance graphic design and walking their dog, Indy.

[Editor's note: Tien was the alumni winner of *CCT*'s personal



YANDERY SANCHEZ '16

Celebrating Francesca Fasullo SEAS'16's bachelorette party in Miami on June 4 were (left to right) Isabel Michaelides '17, Harmony Richman BC'16, Fasullo and Lily Liu-Krason '16.

essay contest; check out her piece in the Spring/Summer 2021 issue: college.columbia.edu/cct/issue/springsummer-2021/article/memory-and-metamorphosis.]

2015

Kareem Carryl
kareem.carryl@columbia.edu

Hello, Class of 2015! I hope that you have been staying safe and healthy. Here are some updates:

Mitchell Veit married Lauren Yee BC'15 on May 20, eight years after they met at 1020.

Elizabeth Delaney BC'15 (née Stachon) shared: "In July 2020, eight Columbia scholar athletes gathered to celebrate the wedding of Elizabeth Stachon and Paul Delaney '14. The wedding was an intimate affair in the ornate World Food Prize Hall of Laureates in Des Moines, Iowa.

"The scholar-athletes competed in football and basketball during their years at Columbia. Paul was recently named to the Columbia Football All-150 Anniversary Team in recognition of his outstanding college career. The couple now live and work in Seattle."

Congratulations! See "Just Married!" for a photo.

As always, your classmates want to hear from you! Please be sure to submit updates by writing me or using the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. Photos should be sent right to CCT using the Class Notes photo webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo.

2016

Lily Liu-Krason
lliukrason@gmail.com

Hey, 2016. I hope things are looking up for you since the spring and summer. New York definitely feels in full swing.

On my end, I switched jobs and apartments. I'm now working for a meditation app, Waking Up with Sam Harris (let me know if you're interested in mindfulness and meditation!) and I now live in Williamsburg, where I've found out there's a pretty strong Lion contingent: **Timothy Hyde, Jackson Fisher, Francesca Fasullo SEAS'16, Matthew Sheridan SEAS'16, Gurbani Suri SEAS'16,** Nikita Singareddy '17, Isabel Michaelides '17 and Noah Stebbins SEAS'15, to name a few. If you're also in Williamsburg or NYC, definitely let me know where you are!

Now onto your some actual updates from your classmates:

Eli Haims resides in San Francisco, where he is a product manager in cryptocurrency and drinks beer and makes pottery in his spare time.

Mohit Jain moved back to NYC from Chicago and works for Honeycomb Asset Management.

Kelly Echavarria started at Harvard Business School this fall after some time in finance and investing.

After a few years as a product manager, **Kalman Victor** will pursue a Ph.D. in psychology at NYU.

Yanick Couture graduated from Penn's veterinary school and was matched to a program in Oregon. He planned to drive cross country this summer and is looking forward to being an Oreganite (Oregano?).

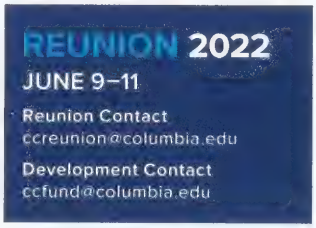
Jonah Reider launched Pith Home Goods, a selection of quality essentials for cooking and hosting. You can find them at pith.store and a few locations across New York City.

Dan Schlosser SEAS'16 co-founded Ambrook, a platform building financial management tools for farmers.

Dan and I were lucky enough to be present for **Yih-Jen Ku SEAS'16**'s engagement to his fiancée on May 17, 2021, a date I was reminded was almost exactly five years since our graduation. Follow @ccreunion2016 to keep up to date, and never hesitate to shoot me a note about what you're up to or if you're visiting.

As always, continue to send in updates or brag about your friends or this column may look more and more like Gossip Girl. You Know You Love Me, XOXO

2017



Carl Yin
carl.yin@columbia.edu

Taylor Fogg "was named Miss New Hampshire USA in June, and will compete at Miss USA this November! Would appreciate any and all support from my fellow Lions — feel free to follow along at @missnhusa :)."

Amy Xia and **Ethan Wu** were married on May 11.

Congratulations to the newlyweds! See "Just Married!" for a photo.

Bianca Guerrero works at Make the Road, leading a statewide coalition for workers excluded from unemployment insurance and federal Covid-19 relief (i.e., stimulus checks). In early April, after a year of actions including 23-day hunger strikes led by undocumented people in NYC and Westchester, the coalition won $2.1 billion for a first-in-the-nation excluded worker fund, which will provide a one-time-payment of either $15,600, or $3,200 to eligible recipients, depending on the employment criteria they meet. Bianca and the coalition are now working on implementing the program with the state Department of Labor.

Outside of work, Bianca has spent time supporting progressive women running for local office, including City Council candidates Felicia Singh (District 32) and Sandy Nurse (District 37), and mayoral candidate Maya Wiley through an organization called Amplify Her.

Carolyn Kang launched an initiative in April to provide free safety alarms for Asian-Americans in NYC amid a surge in anti-Asian hate crimes during the pandemic. Since then, the initiative has fundraised more than $9,000 and distributed more than 1,600 alarms to the Asian American Pacific Islander community in NYC, focused on women and the elderly. Carolyn's work has been featured in an *ELLE* magazine article (bit.ly/3xM5fYU) and NBC News. If anyone would like to request an alarm, contribute to the fundraiser (gofundme.com/f/safety-alarms-for-asians-in-nyc), or reach out about the charity, please contact Carolyn at aapisafetyalarms@gmail.com.

Eileen Wong lives in Berlin and takes care of Klarna's Germany-based employees in org development.

Miranda Arakelian began in July at the Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine. She says she is excited to join friend **Tatini Mal-Sarkar** PH'19, who is at the Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine. The two jokingly shared a Neopets account in their sophomore year, not knowing that this would be the first of many collaborative care experiences in their future.

Aaron Kane recently helped elect Yassamin Ansari, the youngest woman elected to Phoenix City Council and first Iranian-American elected in Arizona history as her deputy field director. Aaron then joined Ansari's team at city council on Inauguration Day (April 19, 2021) and now serves as her director of outreach and engagement. In their new role, Aaron has been leading their office's efforts to vaccinate much of their district against Covid-19 due to their district's low vaccination rates (many ZIP codes only have around a 20 percent vaccination rate due largely to lack of nearby access, tech barriers, language barriers and misinformation).

Aaron has also been working to organize Phoenix's new ad hoc committee on electric vehicle equity



Enjoying a "friends trip" in the South Hamptons on May 30 were (left to right) James Church, Amy Fu SEAS'15, Claudia Moreira SEAS'16, Joseph Powers '16, Mohit Jain '16, Kelly Echavarria '16, Danielle Kovarsky '16 and Bryant Rockoff.



STEVE STATHAROS

Edwin DeJesus '19 (left) and Dylan Dawson '19 took a moment to enjoy the scenery while at an "Edwin for NYC" volunteer meetup in Astoria Park on March 21.

and implementation, which Mayor Kate Gallego announced in their first week in office, with Ansari as its chair. They will work to build a roadmap to make owning an EV in Phoenix as convenient and affordable as a gas-powered vehicle to make them more accessible to low- and middle-income families and tackle Phoenix's growing air quality issues.

It's been an exciting year so far, and Aaron says they have been excited to continue helping Ansari in her vision for a more sustainable and equitable Phoenix.

As always, it's great to hear from all of you about your experiences and accomplishments! Please share any updates with me via email or through the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. Photos should be sent right to *CCT* using the Class Notes photo webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo.

[Editor's note: Columbia Reunion 2022, for classes ending in 2 and 7, and the Class of 2021, is scheduled for June 9–11. Watch your mailbox and inbox for more information!]

2018

Alexander Birkel and Maleeha Chida
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mnc2122@columbia.edu

Hello, Class of 2018! We hope everyone is doing well! Please feel free to send us notes about what you have been up to via the email addresses above or the Class Notes webform (college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note). Photos and captions should be submitted directly to *CCT* using the Class Notes photo webform (college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo).

2019

Tj Aspen Givens and Emily Gruber
tag2149@columbia.edu
emilyannegruber@gmail.com

Hi, Class of 2019! We hope that you enjoy the following updates from our class. Send yours along to us for the next issue!

Iqra Bawany recently completed a law degree in the United Kingdom. She is heading back to New York in September to pursue an L.L.M. at NYU.

Anna Bryan is starting a Ph.D. at the new Advanced Care Research Centre at the University of Edinburgh this fall, working on the research project "Music and the aging brain: can personalized music provision support communication skills and quality of life?" She is currently working in Maine and volunteering remotely with DOROT, a nonprofit in New York City that works to alleviate social isolation among older adults.

Miguel Tapia Colin recently committed to attending Rutgers Law School in the fall, fulfilling his dream to become a fierce civil rights advocate for all.

Edwin DeJesus is running for the 22nd District of New York City Council as an independent candidate. He is on the ballot for the November election to represent his hometown of Astoria, as well as parts of Woodside, Jackson Heights and East Elmhurst in Queens. He is endorsed by the Green Party of New York. If elected, Edwin would be the youngest member of the council in its history. He is seeking volunteers to fight for the most vulnerable in his community. You can get involved at edwinfornyc.com. "Not a Democrat. Not a Republican. A New Yorker."

Tj Aspen Givens was recently recognized as one of the Mid-Atlantic Real Estate Journal's 30 Under 30, highlighting the brightest young executives, innovators and game changers in the commercial real estate industry. The writeup acknowledged her commitment to mentorship, service and women's advocacy, and her two Gramercy Institute marketing awards.

Elif Memet commenced her role as an associate in the Core Private Equity Group at Apollo Global Management in New York in June. Prior to this, Elif was an investment banking analyst at Goldman Sachs in the Industrials group.

Sam Quillen recently published a book, *Under One Sun,* a quick overview of world history, after a lot of research, work and procrastination beginning in senior year.

Myles Zhang wrote his master's thesis at the University of Cambridge about surveillance architecture and prison design. This fall he will start a Ph.D. in architecture at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. Inspired by taking undergraduate urban history classes with Professor Kenneth Jackson, Myles's graduate research will examine the history of American cities and suburban sprawl. He continues posting drawings and paintings to myleszhang.org.

2020

Stephen Cone and Kyra Ann Dawkins
jsc2247@columbia.edu
kad2196@columbia.edu

Sabrina Lautin, along with her husband, Philip, and dogs, Crouton and Waffles, lives in Denver and is studying mining engineering at Colorado School of Mines. They are also touring all of the western National Parks in their off time.

Daniela Riedlova moved to the Czech Republic for a few months to reconnect with family and then started her first full-time job, as a marketing assistant at Penguin Random House. She serves on the sustainability subcommittee and volunteers with Read Ahead. She is also now a vegetarian!

Remi Free was to graduate with an M.Ast. (master's in astrophysics) from the University of Cambridge this July. She will then start at the University of Michigan for a M.Eng. in space systems engineering.

On May 21, **Chris Boretti** was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Marines. He will continue with more training this fall before being assigned to a duty station.

As an update, **Santiago Tobar Potes**'s time as a class correspondent has drawn to a close. We've deeply appreciated his dedication and due diligence in consolidating the column. We wish him all the best in his future endeavors!

Thank you to all who submitted their notes to us, and we look forward to hearing from more of you. Please send your news to either **Stephen Cone** or **Kyra Ann Dawkins** using the email addresses at the top of the column, or submit them through the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

2021

REUNION 2022
JUNE 9–11
Reunion Contact
ccreunion@columbia.edu
Development Contact
ccfund@columbia.edu

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

Hello, CC'21! This column is your place to share news and updates with classmates. *CCT* needs one or two class members to oversee this column as class correspondents. Never fear: You'll get lots of help from the *CCT* staff. If you're interested, please email cct@columbia.edu with the subject line "CC'21 class correspondent."

In the meantime, send us all your latest news and happenings, and we'll share them in a future issue. Email us at the same *CCT* email, or use the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. Photos should be sent right to *CCT* using the Class Notes photo webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo.

Columbia Reunion, for classes ending in 2 and 7, and for your class, the newest members of the Columbia College Alumni Association, is scheduled for June 9–11. Watch your mailbox and inbox for more information.

Have a great fall, and welcome to the alumni community!

obituaries

Editor's note: With this issue, we bring the online feature "Lions We've Lost" to a close. At the height of the Covid-19 pandemic, these tributes to alumni who died from the virus served as an important chronicle of the pandemic's impact on our community. But as vaccination rates rise and life resumes some familiar shape, the need for such a chronicle has lessened. We are grateful to the families who shared information with us. It's been an honor to tell their loved ones' stories.

1945

John M. Khoury, textile manufacturer, Harrington Park, N.J., on March 7, 2020. Born in Brooklyn to Syrian immigrants, Khoury fought with the 7th Army in France and Germany as a sniper and rifleman during WWII. He was awarded several medals for valor, including the Bronze Star Medal with oak leaf cluster, and described his wartime experiences in a book, *Love Company: L Company, 399th Infantry Regiment, of the 100th Infantry Division during World War II and Beyond.* After the war, Khoury joined his father in the textile business, married his childhood friend Grace Magrabi and moved with her to Tenafly, N.J., to raise their family. Khory and his brother, Russell, ran the family businesses until his retirement at 85. He was predeceased by his wife of 68 years and is survived by his daughters, Diane and her husband, Steve Seyboth, Jeanne and her husband, George Lambert, and Carol; son, John SEAS'79, SEAS'88, and his wife, Christiane; brother; and four grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to the Presbyterian Church (tenaflypresby.org) or the Salvation Army (salvationarmyusa.org/usn).

1954

John H. Timoney, finance manager, Princeton, N.J., on July 3, 2021. Born June 14, 1933, in NYC, Timoney graduated from All Hallows H.S. in the Bronx and at the College was president of Alpha Delta Phi fraternity and captain of the swim team. He later played water polo for The New York Athletic Club, the Army and various clubs in South America. After two years of Army service, Timoney became sales manager for Pan American-Grace Airways in Bolivia, where he met and married Ana Palacios of San Antonio, who was assigned to the U.S. Embassy in La Paz. His career in finance took the family from Bolivia to Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, New York City, the Midwest and Berkeley, Calif., bringing them to Princeton in 1978 when he left W.R. Grace to join Bio-Dynamics. Timoney was chief financial officer for Applied BioScience International until 1997 and subsequently was a member of the boards of Omnicare and International Schools Services. In addition to his wife, Timoney is survived by his sons, Francis GS'84, Mark '88, BUS'93 and Michael '88, GS'99; daughter, Maria Teresa ("Tess") NUR'99; sister, Susie O'Neill; 10 grandchildren; and one great-grandchild. Memorial contributions may be made to All Hallows H.S. (allhallows.org).

Robert A. Weber, entrepreneur, Kingston, Mass., on February 11, 2021. Born in Brooklyn, Weber was a member of TEP fraternity, the Kingsmen and Columbia Chorus, and also earned a B.S. in 1955 and an M.S. in 1956 from Columbia Engineering, both in electrical engineering. After serving for three years in the Air Force, stationed in Morocco and Little Rock, Ark., he became an entrepreneur and founded several companies, including software and computer maintenance businesses in New Jersey. Retiring to Kingston in 2008, Weber was one of the founding members and president of the Friends of the Kingston Public Library (kingstonlibrary.org), was on the board of the Jones River Watershed Association (jonesriver.org/jrwa) and was a dedicated member of the Jones River Village Historical Society (jrvhs.org), all of which will accept memorial contributions in his name. Weber was predeceased by his wife, Gloria, and daughter, Nancy; and is survived by his sister, Judith Taylor; daughters, Susan, and Barbara Weber-Boustani; and three grandchildren.

1956

Michael H. Moerman, anthropology professor, San Francisco, on August 22, 2020. Born in the Bronx, Moerman earned a Ph.D. in anthropology from Yale in 1964 and began teaching at UCLA the following year. He was granted tenure in 1968, became a full professor in 1974 and remained until his retirement in 1993. Moerman's early work examined the social and economic organization, agricultural transformation and ethnic identity in Thailand. Inspired by Harvey Sacks, Emanual Schegloff and Gail Jefferson, his research shifted mid-career



Michael H. Moerman '56

to conversation analysis, eventually resulting in the publication of his 1987 book, *Talking Culture: Ethnography and Conversation Analysis.* Following his retirement, Moerman shifted gears again, this time to begin a career in acting that lasted 20 years, with performances in venues throughout California. He is survived by his wife, Patricia Miller.

Stanley D. Stier, physician, patient advocate and medical director, Delray Beach, Fla., on April 23, 2021. Born in the Bronx, Stier graduated from New York Medical School and served in the Navy during the Cuban Missile Crisis. He served patients at New Britain General Hospital, Yale New Haven Hospital and Griffin Hospital, all in Connecticut, and in private practice. Stier later became a patient advocate at Danbury (Conn.) Hospital and transitioned to administration, becoming a medical director. After moving to Florida, he continued his advocacy work as a volunteer at local hospice. Stier and his wife, Suzanne, traveled to more than 20 countries. She survives him, as do his sons, Jeffrey and his wife, Marian, and Seth and his wife, Jennifer; daughters, Shari, and Ilisha Borek and her husband, Sam; and nine grandchildren.

1957

Alfred D. Fierro, attorney, Old Tappan, N.J., on May 1, 2021. Born on November 3, 1935, Fierro was class president at Fort Lee H.S., majored in Russian and economics and graduated from Fordham Law in 1960. A founding partner of Fierro, Fierro & Izzard of Fort Lee, he appeared before the Supreme Court of the United States in the case of *Shell Oil Co. vs. Marinello.* Fierro was a member of the Bergen County Bar Association for more than 60 years, chair of the Fort Lee Democratic Party, president of the Fort Lee Board of Education and a life member of the Fort Lee Athletic Club. He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Juanita (née Tomasini); sons, Matthew and his wife, Nancy, Mark and his wife, Amy, and Paul and his wife, Kathleen; daughter, Tamara Fierro Barrera, and her husband, Peter; 10 grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Arthur T. Meyerson, psychiatrist, New York City and Shelter Island, N.Y., on January 27, 2021. A lifelong New Yorker, Meyerson grew up on the Lower East Side and graduated from Stuyvesant H.S. and P&S (1961). A gifted physician, he was a Distinguished Life Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association and former president of the New York County Psychiatric Society. Meyerson championed the rights of the chronically mentally ill, and supported community mental health programming as an administrator and professor of medicine at several teaching hospitals, including Mount Sinai, NYU, the

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University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey and the Hahnemann University School of Medicine, where he chaired psychiatry and neurology. Following 9-11, he was the clinical director for disaster psychiatry outreach at Ground Zero, providing free therapy to first responders, victims of the attacks and their families. Meyerson is survived by his wife, Carol A. Bernstein GS'76, PS'80; daughter, Samantha; two children from his first marriage and their spouses, son, Peter, and his wife, Kate Short Meyerson, and daughter, Jessica, and her husband, Michael Schwarz; and two grandsons. Memorial contributions may be made to the Young People's Chorus of New York City (ypc.org) or the University Glee Club of New York City (ugcofnyc.org).

1958

Sheldon B. Cousin, engineer and chief information officer, Edgewater, N.J., on March 17, 2021. Born in Brooklyn on November 23, 1938, Cousin earned an M.S. in engineering mechanics in 1959 and a Ph.D. in engineering in 1964, both from Columbia Engineering. In 1967, he moved to Houston and, for the next seven years, managed dozens of engineers in his work for NASA/Lockheed on Apollo Missions 8-17 and Skylab. From 1974 to 1979, Cousin was a senior engineer for HRB-Singer in State College, Pa., then he returned to New York to be the director of advanced systems and applications for Ebasco Services. In the 1990s, he was chief engineer for Stone & Webster in Boston, then was the chief information officer and computer consultant for a number of companies before retiring. Cousin is survived by his wife of 59 years, Lydia; sons, Brian '85 and his wife, Barbara, Keith and his wife, Karyn, and Wayne and his wife, Laura; daughter, Pam, and her husband, John; and nine grandchildren.

Maurice H. Katz, attorney, Los Angeles, on June 5, 2021. Born on January 18, 1937, in the Bronx, Katz graduated from Bronx Science, majored in history and earned a law degree from Harvard in 1961. Later that year, he relocated to Los Angeles, where he practiced law for the next 55 years. In 1962, Katz married Margery Rosenberg, whom he met while



Maurice H. Katz '58

leading a student bike tour of France. They shared a passion for travel, food, art, movies and culture and filled their house with German Shepherds, cats, dinner parties, love and laughter. In addition to his wife, Katz is survived by his sister, Maxine Kurtzman; sons, Brian and his wife, Kerry, Bradley and his wife, Mary-Beth, and Andrew and his wife, Francine; and six grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to The National Endowment for the Arts (arts.gov/about/make-a-donation-online).

Mark D. Luftig, lawyer and investment banker, Chapel Hill, N.C., on May 1, 2021. Born in the Bronx and a graduate of Bronx Science, Luftig majored in economics, and earned a B.S. from the Business School in 1961 and a J.D. from the Law School in 1962. He was in private law practice in NYC before becoming general attorney for rates and regulatory matters for New York Telephone Co. in 1968 and a VP at NERA Economic Consulting in 1989. He was senior VP and director of financial research at Kemper Securities 1992–94 and a partner in W.H. Reaves and Co., now Reaves Asset Management, 1995–2004, when he retired. Luftig



Mark D. Luftig '58

loved to travel and avidly explored the world with his wife, Linda Stryker-Luftig. He was a math wizard who enjoyed playing poker, had an irreverent sense of humor and gave back by sitting on nonprofit boards and volunteering as a tax preparer for people in need. Luftig is survived by his wife; daughters, Lisa and her husband, Mark Zimmerman, and Jill and her husband, Patrick Campbell; stepdaughters, Wendy and her husband, Richard Robbins, Beth '93 and her husband, Hussein Saddique, and Jo and her husband, Ivan Rasnik; and eight grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to the Chelsea Art Theater, 1129 Weaver Dairy Rd., Suite AB, Chapel Hill, NC 27514.

Howard Winell, market strategist, New York City, on December 29, 2020. Born in the Bronx and raised in Queens, Winell majored in economics and earned an M.B.A. in accounting in 1959 from the Business School. While working as an opera singer, Winell made a successful investment in Syntex in 1963 and became deeply interested in the stock market. In 1966 he joined Merrill Lynch as a broker and developed his market tools and

OTHER DEATHS REPORTED

Columbia College Today also has learned of the following deaths. Complete obituaries will be published in an upcoming issue, pending receipt of information.

1946 **James A. Manning,** pediatric cardiologist, Rochester, N.Y., on July 5, 2021.

1955 **Thomas M. Evans,** physician, Cincinnati, on July 13, 2021.

Norman Goldstein, dermatologist, New York City, on January 5, 2021.

1956 **Frederic H. Brooks,** businessman and entrepreneur, Greenwich, Conn., on June 25, 2021.

Elias Schwartz, pediatrician, Philadelphia, on July 17, 2021.

1957 **Jerome J. Percus,** professor, New York City, on March 7, 2021.

1958 **William Reichel,** physician, Timonium, Md., on May 14, 2021.

Robert W. Sandall, sales executive, Colorado Springs, Colo., on July 7, 2021.

William Schwartz, businessman, New York City, on July 9, 2021.

1962 **Harry J. Guayle,** science teacher, Steuben, Maine, on September 29, 2020.

1963 **Joseph Frisch,** IT supervisor, Del Mar, Calif., on November 10, 2020.

1966 **Michael H. Friedman,** professor, Winston-Salem, N.C., on May 27, 2021.

Kenneth L. Pearson, hospital manager, Ridgewood, N.J., on April 5, 2021.

Daniel R. Seigle, Las Vegas, on June 24, 2021.

1975 **Edward Cranswick,** social activist, Hawthorn, Australia, on July 3, 2021.

1987 **Eric G. Rogers,** entertainment executive, Redondo Beach, Calif., on June 10, 2021.

1993 **Michael J. Sardo,** Silver Spring, Md., on July 2, 2021.



Howard Winell '58

investment techniques. In 1977 he paired with economist David Bostian to form an economic and market research and consulting company that they managed until 1989, when he formed Winell Associates. He continued to serve his clients, individuals and professional corporate money managers, until two weeks prior to his death. Winell was predeceased by his first wife, Cynthia Lillenfeld; and is survived by his second wife, of 36 years, Kathleen; sons, Jonathan, Daniel, and Jeremy and his husband, Abel Montez; and one grandchild.

1959

Clive Chajet, designer, New York City on February 3, 2021. Born February 27, 1937, in London, Chajet's family settled in New York City in 1960. He built a successful career in brand identity and image management, founding Chajet Design Co. and then becoming chair and CEO of Lippincott & Margulies. A leading corporate image consultant, Chajet helped create and shape the images of such corporations as Coca-Cola, Chrysler and American Express. He was the co-author, with Tom Shachtman, of *Image by Design: From Corporate Vision to Business Reality* (1991). Chajet is survived by his wife of 53 years, Bonnie Loeb Chajet; daughters, Lisa and Lori; son-in-law, Benjamin Wides; and three grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to Columbia (college.givenow.columbia.edu) or to the Park Avenue Synagogue (pasyn.org).

Georges L. de Gramont, business executive, Cliffside Park, N.J., on March 20, 2021. Born in Paris, de Gramont's father was a French diplomat who died fighting as a member of the Free French during WWII. He became the stepson of a Belgian diplomat and lived in many countries as a child but adopted the United States as his home, becoming a citizen after serving in the Army. De Gramont majored in economics and captained the soccer team. He earned an M.B.A. from the Business School in 1963 and spent most of his career as an executive at the Thomas J. Lipton Co., the world's largest tea manufacturer. De Gramont loved history, literature, politics, music and the visual arts and was dedicated to his immediate and extended family. He coached his son's baseball and soccer teams and often traveled to attend the plays, sporting events, book readings and art exhibitions of his relatives. He is survived by his wife of nearly 60 years, Carol; son, Alex; and daughter, Nina.

Jerry Goodisman, chemistry professor, Syracuse, N.Y., on May 2, 2021. Born on March 22, 1939, Goodisman grew up in Brooklyn, graduated from Stuyvesant H.S. and earned a Ph.D. from Harvard. He was a chemistry professor at Syracuse for more than 40 years and also was vice-chair of the department. He mentored upper-level and graduate students and made introductory courses accessible to undergraduate students from all disciplines. Goodisman authored textbooks and scientific articles that advanced the field of physical chemistry and was most excited about applying his theoretical approaches in scientific collaborations that advanced human health. He enjoyed literature, puzzles, handball, tennis, cycling and cross-country skiing and was an enthusiastic supporter of Syracuse sports. He is survived by his wife of nearly 58 years, Mireille; brother, Leonard, and his wife, Nancy; son, Michael; daughter, Nathalie Cornelius; son-in-law, Eric Foster; daughter-in-law, Janet Hatt; two grandchildren; and two step-grandchildren.

J. Peter Rosenfeld, psychology professor, Glencoe, Ill., on February 16, 2021. Rosenfeld majored in biology and humanities and earned a master's in English and comparative literature in 1961 from GSAS. He also earned a master's in psychology in 1969 and a doctorate in physiological psychology in 1971, both from the University of Iowa. Rosenfeld was a professor in Northwestern's Department of Psychology and its Department of Neurobiology and Physiology. He led an influential scientific laboratory devoted to brainwave research and was a pioneer in the field of concealed information detection, authoring more than three dozen scientific and academic papers. Rosenfeld is survived by his wife, Elba Del Carmen Olivares-Lopez; son, Jonathan, and his wife, Tamara Raab; daughter, Stacey, and her wife, Elizabeth Cappo; one stepson; two stepdaughters; 10 grandchildren and step-grandchildren; and one great-grandchild. Memorial contributions may be made to the Wagner Society (wagnersociety.org) or St. Jude Children's Research Hospital (stjude.org).

Raphael "Ray" I. Schenk, engineer and furniture manufacturer, Menlo Park, Calif., on February 7, 2021. Schenk was born in Brooklyn, but lived in Sydney during his early childhood. Upon returning to New York, he graduated from Erasmus Hall H.S. and at 16 entered the College, where he played basketball and was a member of Sigma Alpha Mu. He earned a B.S. in 1960 from Columbia Engineering and an M.S. and M.B.A. from Stanford, focusing on industrial engineering. Schenk worked for Procter & Gamble and IBM, where he was a systems engineer, and Touche Ross, where he was a management consultant. Using his talent for design and craftsmanship, he later started his own company, which manufactured high-end furniture. Schenk is survived by his former wife, Alice; and daughters, Debra and Suzanne.

Roger E. Spivack, marketer and retailer, Sarasota, Fla., on January 3, 2021. Born in Boston, Spivack attended the Bordentown (N.J.) Military Institute and earned a master's in retailing from NYU. After serving in the Army, he worked in marketing for General Foods and Richardson-Vicks before opening his own specialty foods business in Pennsylvania. In retirement, he coached résumé writing and interview skills as a Salvation Army volunteer and at his church. Spivack was married to EllenSue Knopf for 32 years and they had three children before they divorced in 1992. As he approached retirement, Spivack married Elaine Mennen, whom he had met as a member of the Redeemer Presbyterian Church in NYC, where he served as a deacon. They retired to Sarasota, retaining an apartment "up north" to stay connected with family and friends. After Elaine passed away in 2016, Spivak met Judith Landes at Province Presbyterian Church and they became close companions. In addition to Landes, Spivack is survived by his brother, Jolyon; sister-in-law, Dorothy; sons, Ira and Basha; daughter, Eileen; and one grandson.

1961

Richard M. Hall, attorney, Williamstown, Mass., on June 11, 2021. Born in Milwaukee, Hall rowed at St. Andrews in Middletown, Del., as well as at the College and graduated from the Law School in 1964. He clerked for the U.S. District Court judge in Alaska in 1965 before becoming an assistant U.S. attorney for the Southern District of New York in 1968. Before assuming the position of assistant director for inspection and enforcement in the Office of Surface Mining in the Carter administration, Hall was one of the early staff attorneys at the Natural Resources Defense Council. He later served as principal counsel for the Maryland Department of the Environment. After a short time in private practice, Hall went on to lead Capitol Area Asset Builders, a nonprofit that strives to create financial opportunities for low- and moderate-income individuals in the greater Washington, D.C., region. He coached women's rowing at August Wilson Senior H.S. in D.C. and loved sailing his 43-ft. wooden ketch with his family in Chesapeake Bay and Martha's Vineyard Sound. Hall is survived by his wife of 44 years, Heleny Cook; sons, Tim and Andrew; daughters, Diana and Charlotte '08; and several grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to Capital Area Asset Builders (caab.org).

Nathaniel Reichek, cardiologist, Northport, N.Y., on March 6, 2021. Born in the Bronx, Reichek graduated from P&S in 1965, was an intern and resident at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine and spent two years in the U.S. Public Health Service at the CDC. He completed his cardiology fellowship

Edwin Goodgold '65: Father of Trivia, Manager of Sha Na Na

You can't tell the story of pop culture in the 1960s and '70s without spotlighting the contributions of **Edwin Goodgold '65,** who raised the profile of trivia contests from a college parlor game to a global phenomenon, and helped turn the a capella group the Kingsmen into the retro rock sensation known as Sha Na Na.

Born in Israel, Goodgold grew up in Brooklyn and graduated from Tilden H.S. before majoring in history and becoming features editor of *Spectator.* He spent more than two decades in the music business doing promotional work and managing rock groups, then pivoted to a 25-year career as a respected NYU administrator. He died on May 7, 2021, in New York City.

While at Columbia, Goodgold often gathered with friends in one of the dorm lounges, where they would discuss various subjects, including memories of their childhood influences in music, books and people. These led to Q&A trivia sessions, whose popularity spurred Goodgold to write a column for *Spectator* published on February 5, 1965, headlined "Glorious Entertainment." "Trivia is a game played by countless young adults," he wrote, "who on the one hand realize they have misspent their youth and yet, on the other hand, do not want to let go of it." Those ties are the essence of true trivia, and what separates it from minutiae and random factoids. "Trivia is concerned with tugging at the heartstrings," Goodgold and Dan Carlinsky '65 wrote in their seminal 1966 book, *Trivia,* which introduced the subject to a national audience.

On March 1, 1965, Goodgold and Carlinsky hosted a trivia contest on the third floor of Ferris Booth Hall, which included several Kingsmen singing old rock tunes and the audience guessing their original singers. Thus from trivia was planted the seeds of Sha Na Na.

Goodgold and Carlinsky hosted late-night call-in trivia shows on WKCR where callers would often play "stump the hosts." They also organized a pair of trivia contests open to teams from the Ivy League and the Seven Sisters in October 1965 and February 1967.

Goodgold spent some time at NYU Law before choosing to work on writing projects, including collaborating with Carlinsky on several more trivia books between 1966 and 1970. Meanwhile, he was approached by several members of Sha Na Na, who knew him from Columbia, to help them find a manager to handle the business aspect of their budding career. They soon decided they were more comfortable with Goodgold than anyone else, and he took the job.

"Ed was a great guy who got along with everybody," said Richard Joffe '72, LAW'93, an original member of the group. "He was so engaging and so diplomatic, everybody liked to do business with him. As a new group, that really helped to smooth our way into the music business."

Goodgold managed Sha Na Na through their iconic appearance at Woodstock and developed friendships with many veteran promoters including Bill Graham, who brought the group to his landmark venues Fillmore West and Fillmore East. Goodgold stopped managing Sha Na Na in 1971, by which time many of the original Columbia members had left the group, but he continued in the music business. Among his most famous jobs was as the American manager for the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame group Genesis, whose members included Phil Collins and Peter Gabriel.

After more than two decades of frequent travel and high pressure, Goodgold decided he would prefer to stay closer to home. In February 1992, he took a temporary administrative position in the NYU Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development because he thought returning to an academic environment might be fun. The gig was supposed to last six months, but Goodgold stayed for nearly 25 years; he retired in December 2016. He was assistant to the associate dean, academic affairs, and loved being around young people and his co-workers in the dean's office. The feeling was mutual; before he left, his co-workers gave him a retirement bash with, naturally, a trivia theme.



BRUCE "BRUNO" CLARKE '74 / USED WITH PERMISSION

Goodgold is survived by his wife, Helene; and brother, Abraham '69.

— Alex Sachare '71

at Georgetown under the tutelage of Dr. Joseph Perloff and followed his mentor to Penn, where in 20 years he rose to the rank of full professor and director of the Noninvasive Laboratories. In 1992 Reichek moved to Allegheny General Hospital in Pittsburgh as chief of the Cardiology Division, where he remained until 2002, at which time he became director of the Research and Education Department at St. Francis Hospital in Roslyn, N.Y., and professor of medicine and biomedical engineering at SUNY Stony Brook. He went to part-time status in 2016 to continue his research. Reichek was regarded as one of the founding fathers in his field and was president of the Society for Cardiovascular Magnetic Resonance, president of the Intersocietal Commission for the Accreditation of Magnetic Resonance Laboratories and chair of the Council of Cardiovascular Organizations. He published more than 170 original articles and more than 300 abstracts. Reichek is survived by his wife, Lesly.

1962

Stuart M. Case, attorney and judge, Mystic, Conn., on January 12, 2021. Case enrolled in Columbia Engineering before transferring to the College and majoring in economics. After working in journalism, including media relations at the University of Connecticut, he earned a J.D. from the Western New England College of Law, ran a family practice in Connecticut and was elected to the Family Court. Case is survived by his wife of 58 years, Lenore; and son, David.

1963

Robert J. Pollet, physician, researcher and professor, Atlanta, on April 27, 2021. Born on January 24, 1942, in Brooklyn, Pollet fell in love with research during a college summer internship at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory. He earned an M.D. and a Ph.D. in biochemistry from NYU Medicine, where he met his wife, Donna. After completing an internship at Chicago and residency at Michigan, he was a fellow in endocrinology at the National Institutes of Arthritis, Metabolism & Digestive Diseases in Bethesda, Md. Pollet held dual positions as the associate chief of staff for research and development at the Atlanta Veterans Administration Hospital and senior assistant dean of the Emory School of Medicine. While at the Atlanta VA, he launched major cross-department research initiatives and brought in substantial funding to help build a world-class academic and medical research program. In addition to his wife, Pollet is survived by his sons, Adam and his wife, Natalie, and Joshua and his wife, Ashley; daughter, Sarah PH'07; and five grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to the Union of Concerned Scientists (bit.ly/3gPc1aC).

1965

Alan I. Green, psychiatric researcher, Hanover, N.H., on November 26, 2020. Born in Norwalk, Conn., Green majored in history before graduating in 1969 from Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, where

he became passionate about neuroscience research. He took a hiatus after his internship in medicine to spend a year as an investigator at the NIH and spent another year serving as director of research for the White House Special Action Office for Drug Abuse Prevention. Following residency, Green worked at Harvard Medical School and the Massachusetts Mental Health Center, where he ran the Commonwealth Research Center, and later at Dartmouth, where he was the Raymond Sobel Professor of Psychiatry and chair of the Department of Psychiatry at the Geisel School of Medicine and Dartmouth-Hitchcock for nearly 18 years. While he mentored dozens of young researchers, his own research focused on understanding the basis of schizophrenia and substance abuse and developing better treatments for these disorders. Green is survived by his wife of 37 years, Franny; son, Henry '16; and daughter, Isobel.

1966

Paul J. Kastin, businessman, Atlanta, on June 12, 2021. Born in Cleveland, Kastin majored in art history, was a member of Beta Theta Pi, played on the tennis team and graduated in three years before earning an M.B.A. at Chicago. He worked for Dubuque Packing and Smithfield Foods as well as for an entrepreneur in Atlanta, who called on him to run his new company. In 1981, Kastin leveraged his experience and formed Service Marketing, a commercial meat brokerage business. He was a voracious reader, avid golfer, frequent traveler and patron of the arts, including The Woodruff Arts Center, Atlanta Symphony, Spivey Hall and other cultural venues. Kastin is survived by his wife, Rosthema; daughter, Leslie, and her husband, Tod Rubin; sons, Darren and his wife, Bonnie, and Avery '01; brother, Abba and his wife, Wei Hong; and four grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to the Jewish Federation of Greater Atlanta (jewishatlanta.org) or the Emory Winship Cancer Institute's leukemia fund (winshipcancer.emory.org).

Frank B. Newell, attorney, Little Rock, Ark., on May 6, 2021. Born on September 22, 1944, Newell played football and ran track at Hall H.S. in Little Rock, majored in English and played golf at Columbia, and graduated from the Law School in 1969. After starting his career in private practice, Newell became deputy attorney general under Gov. Jim Guy Tucker (D-Ark.) and helped with a monumental revision of the state's criminal code. After Tucker was elected to Congress in 1976, Newell stayed on in the attorney general's office under his successor, Bill Clinton. He was appointed to the state Public Service Commission in 1981 but his confirmation was blocked by lawmakers in the state Senate because some with utility interests feared he would be too devoted to the interests of consumers. Newell resigned and served on Clinton's staff as a legal assistant reviewing legislation before he was hired by the Worker's Compensation Commission as an administrative law judge, adjudicating hundreds of worker injury claims a year. He later joined the Laser Law Firm and retired in 2019 from the Barber Law Firm, both in Little Rock. Newell is survived by his wife, Dee Ann; daughter, Anna Asa Newell, and her husband, Dr. John Buchanan; brother, Henry; and sister, Leslie Peacock. Memorial contributions may be made to Arkansas Children's Hospital (archildrens.org).

1967

David E. Langsam, financial executive, Larchmont, N.Y., on January 24, 2021. Born in Brooklyn, Langsam was active in student government at Columbia and earned a Ph.D. in politics from Princeton in 1974, with a focus on Soviet politics. Langsam spent his career in finance, beginning at Chase Manhattan Bank before later working for Merrill Lynch, from which he retired in 2013. Langsam was passionate about Jewish life and Israel and was active at his synagogue and with nonprofits devoted to Israel. A tireless reader and consumer of knowledge, he was fascinated by history, politics, people and places, and was genuinely interested in the lives and stories of everyone he met. Langsam is survived by his wife of 46 years, Sandra; daughters, Melissa Braunstein and Nina Blachman; and six grandchildren.

Justin C. Malewezi, educator and civil servant, Lilongwe, Malawi, on April 17, 2021. Born on December 23, 1943, Malewezi was educated at Robert Blake Secondary School in Malawi's Central region district of Dowa. A biology major and varsity soccer player at Columbia, Malewezi returned to Malawi and taught science, later becoming headmaster and chief education officer. An education reformer and a leader in combating HIV, Malewezi held several posts in the 1980s in the ministries of health and education before becoming secretary to the treasury. He also advised the governments of Tanzania, Ghana and Lesotho on education and public sector development. In 1994, in Malawi's first multiparty elections, he joined with Bakili Muluzi and dislodged the Malawi Congress Party from its 30-year hold on power. Malewezi served as VP 1994–2004. After losing in the 2004 presidential election, he spent much of his time as an activist on HIV and AIDS issues. Malewezi is survived by his wife, Felista Chizalema; sons, Justin and Qabaniso; daughters, Msaukiranji and Tione; and six grandchildren.

1969

Gary R. Gunas, theatrical producer, London, on February 22, 2021. Born on May 26, 1947, in Manchester, Conn., Gunas began his career on Off-Broadway in 1969 as an apprentice company manager for the musical *Promenade.* In the 1970s he joined Marvin A. Krauss Associates, where he managed Broadway shows and tours including *Godspell, American Buffalo, Beatlemania, Dancin', Woman of the Year, Dreamgirls* and *La Cage aux Folles*, as well as revivals of *Gypsy* starring Angela Lansbury, *Richard III* starring Al Pacino and *Death of a Salesman* starring Dustin Hoffman. Gunas also managed Broadway performances by a host of artists that included Peter Allen, Ashford & Simpson, Charles Aznavour, Josephine Baker, Count Basie, Shirley Bassey, George Benson, Rodney Dangerfield, Ella Fitzgerald, Patti LaBelle, Bette Midler, Gilda Radner, Mort Sahl, Frank Sinatra and Lily Tomlin. Between 1993 and 2001 he executive-produced several Broadway musicals, including *The Who's Tommy, Jekyll & Hyde, Ragtime, The Civil War* and *Seussical,* before he relocated to London in 2002 and worked for Clear Channel's U.K. office until retiring in 2005. Gunas and his husband, playwright and record producer Bill Rosenfield, were featured in the *Playbill* video series *Old Show Queens,* where they shared their memories of the end of the Golden Age of Broadway. In addition to his husband, Gunas is survived by two brothers. Memorial contributions may be made to Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS (broadwaycares.org).

1971

John W. Borek, artist, bookseller and playwright, Rochester, N.Y., on April 2, 2021. Borek spent 15 years as a legislative aide to former Rochester City Councilman Adam McFadden, was a past president of the 19th Ward Community Association and worked with community advisory programs at the University of Rochester. He owned and operated The Village Green bookstore and was perhaps best known for his commitment to the city's arts and cultural scene. At 58, Borek took a sudden interest in the arts and began recording rap albums, including a song about Michael Jackson's monkey, Bubbles. He wrote deliberately odd plays and even performed in them, as artistic director at the Multi-Use Community Cultural Center. He had planned to perform a show called *The Book of Leuk* about his observations on his battle with leukemia, but a resurgence of the disease prevented that. Last year, Borek published *The Club Van Cortlandt,* a book about his freshman year at Columbia.

J. Hallock "Hall" Northcott, corporate advocate, Kensington, Md., on February 5, 2021. Northcott started his professional career in Washington, D.C., working for Rep. William Frenzel (R-Minn.). He then worked for a variety of corporate and trade associations, focusing on his strong interest in politics and international trade. Northcott traveled extensively throughout his career, loved the beach and was passionate about cars, particularly high-powered sports cars, and blues music. In retirement, he worked for his beloved Washington Nationals, and was an active volunteer in the National Presbyterian Church's Men's Ministry and 40Plus of Greater Washington. Northcott is survived by his wife, Karen; and sister, Heather Walker.

Hon. Robert A. Katzmann '73, Judge Who Taught the Court's Process to the Public

The Hon. **Robert A. Katzmann '73,** chief judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, was a strong advocate for civic education whose most important and beloved project, "Justice for All: Courts and the Community," continues to bring students and teachers to courtrooms across the Second Circuit to learn more about the rule of law.

"Together, we have a collective responsibility to promote civic education, so that our Constitution and government remain vital for generations to come," said Katzmann, who died on June 9, 2021. Through Justice for All, students and teachers participate in moot courts, attend and reenact important cases, do legal research and visit the Learning Center in NYC's Thurgood Marshall United States Courthouse.

Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor described the program as Katzmann's legacy. "Bob has opened the doors to the courthouse to students, teachers and the broader community with the goal of increasing public understanding of the courts and bringing the courts closer to the community," she said in a tribute to Katzmann.

Born on April 22, 1953, in Manhattan and raised in Queens, Katzmann graduated summa cum laude from the College and earned both an M.A. (1976) and a Ph.D. (1978) from Harvard, where he studied with and worked for Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D-N.Y.), who became a mentor. He earned a J.D. in 1980 from Yale, where he worked on the *Yale Law Journal* and clerked for Hon. Hugh H. Bownes of the Court of Appeals for the First Circuit.

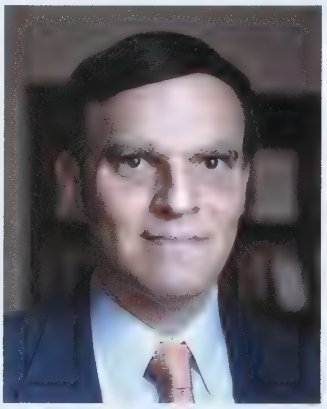
Katzmann taught at Georgetown and was a fellow at the Brookings Institution, where he directed a project on the legal profession and public service. In 1993, Moynihan asked him to serve as his special counsel on the confirmation of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg LAW'59.

"When President Clinton nominated me," Ginsburg recalled, "Sen. Moynihan thought it would be useful for me to have a savvy, sympathique counselor as I made my way from one senator's office to another's. Bob Katzmann was that counselor."

Thus began a deep, lasting friendship. Katzmann described Ginsburg as "a friend for all seasons, an incomparable friend, to me and to my wife, Jennifer." And the admiration was reciprocated: It was Ginsburg who administered the oath of office to Katzmann when he was nominated to the Second Circuit in 1999, noting that this "insightful scholar of governance and interbranch relations" would bring "an enormous store of knowledge to his new commission, along with intelligence and personal qualities important in sound judging: an inquiring mind, extraordinary diligence, patience and a readiness to learn and listen."

Katzmann served as chief judge of the Second Circuit from 2013 to 2020 before taking senior status on January 21, 2021, and was a ranking member of the federal judiciary throughout his tenure. His expertise in judicial-legislative relations made him a natural for early service on the Judicial Conference Committee of the Judicial Branch, which he later chaired. In addition, he served on the Executive Committee of the Conference, an important leadership role, and chaired the Supreme Court Fellows Commission.

Speaking on behalf of the court on Katzmann's passing, Chief Judge Debra A. Livingston said, "Judge Katzmann led our court through historic challenges, from budget sequester and governmental shutdowns at the beginning of his tenure as chief, to the pandemic, which upended our court's operations only last spring. Throughout it all, Judge Katzmann provided sure and steady leadership. And more than this, Judge Katzmann, with his commitment to civic education, also had a vision for the circuit — that the judiciary might lend a steadying hand to our democracy by helping to educate the citizenry about the rule of law and the role of judges. His quiet confidence, determination, exceptional leadership and strong sense of justice inspired us all."



In addition to his wife, Jennifer Callahan, Katzmann is survived by his mother, Sylvia; brothers, Gary '73, his twin, and Martin '78; and sister, Susan.

— Alex Sachare '71

1972

Robert K. "Kayo" Hull, attorney and mediator, Penn Yan, N.Y., on March 16, 2021. Hull was born in Denver but his family moved to South America and he received his early education in Argentina, Venezuela and Portugal. He graduated from Woodberry (Va.) Forest School and took a $10-a-day trip through Europe during a gap year before college. Hull then earned degrees from the Law School in 1977 and SIPA in 1978. He was a writing instructor at the Law School and an associate at Sullivan & Cromwell in New York City before moving to Penn Yan, where he practiced law. He was Yates County treasurer 1986–89 and mayor of Penn Yan 1987–91, had been a labor arbitrator and mediator since 1993 and taught at Cornell Law School in the early 2000s. Hull is survived by his wife, Anna Hurley; sons, David, and Charles and his wife, Lisa; sister, Elizabeth; and one grandson. Memorial contributions may be made to St. Michael's Church (ourladyofthelakescc.org); the Struzzi Fund of the Finger Lakes Health Foundation (flhealth.org), the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research (michaeljfox.org) or the Woodberry Forest School (woodberry.org).



Robert K. "Kayo" Hull '72

1984

Eric L. Hansen, musician, New York on April 27, 2021. Born on February 18, 1957, in Grand Forks, N.D., Hansen moved with his family to Madisonville, Ky., where he was valedictorian at North Hopkins H.S. He majored in political science and minored in music, and became a devotee of the burgeoning new wave music scene and lifelong follower of The Residents and Tom Waits. Hansen was a member of the CU Glee Club, the New York Choral Society and The Dessoff Choirs, and the bass section leader and soloist in the St. John's Episcopal Church Choir in Larchmont, N.Y. He enjoyed nothing more than lugging his keyboard to open mic nights and doing his best Waits impersonation, which evolved into his "Tom Waits for No Man" finale performance in the annual Blowhole Theater show at Barbes Brooklyn. He is survived by his longtime partner, Anna; mother, Carolyn; brothers, Paul and his wife, Pi-Hsun, Daniel and his wife, Stacey, and Peter and his wife, Heather; sisters, Sonja and her husband, Dave, Kristen and her husband, Trent, and Rachel and her husband, Todd; and eight nephews and nieces. Memorial contributions may be made to The Dessoff Choirs (dessoff.org).

— Alex Sachare '71

Alice Neel's Columbia Paintings

Alice Neel, one of the most powerfully expressive artists of the 20th century, was recently the subject of a hugely popular show at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Fans may be surprised to learn that Neel had many close ties to Columbia, including both of her sons, **Richard Neel '61, LAW'64** and **Hartley Neel '63,** portrayed here. Read more about Neel's Columbia connections (and see more of her great artwork!) in our online exclusive by **Jamie Katz '72, BUS'80,** now at college.columbia.edu/cct.



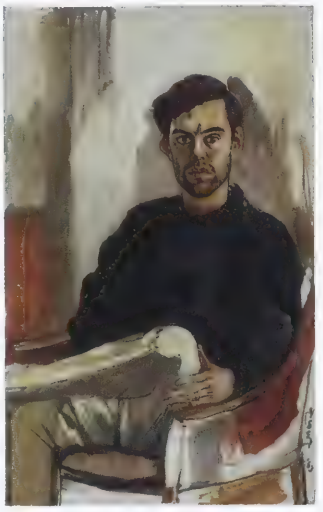
© THE ESTATE OF ALICE NEEL

Richard and Hartley (1950)

Brotherly solidarity and boyish energy abound this work, which conveys Alice Neel's respect for the complexity of her sons' emotional lives. To her, children were not merely adults-in-waiting, but individuals to be taken as seriously as anyone else.

"There's great affection and warmth in it," **Hartley Neel '63** says. "In those days we were absolutely as close as you can imagine. Things were good, and Alice enjoyed doing that painting."

Richard Neel '61, LAW'64 adds: "I'm glad Alice did it. Later on, she wanted to paint us in our Columbia Glee Club tuxedos, but she didn't. It was just a concept."

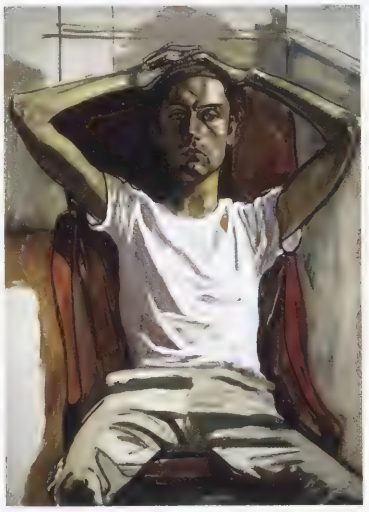


© THE ESTATE OF ALICE NEEL

Richard (1963)

Richard Neel '61, LAW'64 sat for his mother at a stressful moment in his academic career: His intensity is clear from the look in his eyes, the careful rendering of his mouth, the three-day beard.

"I'm in the Law School here, studying for finals," he remembers, "and I figured out that if I didn't shave, I would save 20 minutes a day. The extra time would be used for studying." He has long appreciated how well Alice Neel understood and expressed his state of mind. The canvas hung over his piano in a Riverside Drive apartment for many years.

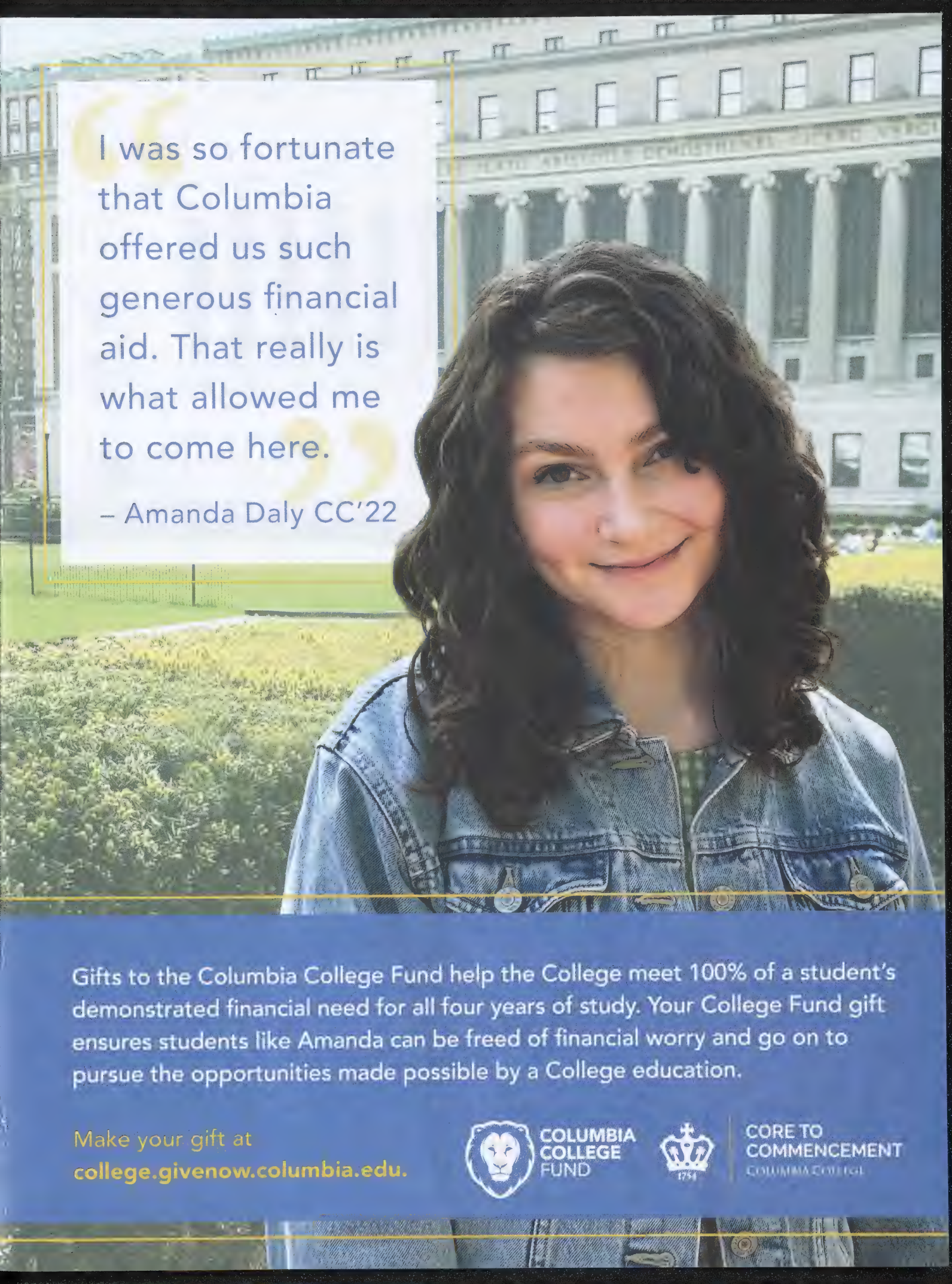


NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART, WASHINGTON, D.C., GIFT OF ARTHUR M. BILLOWA. © THE ESTATE OF ALICE NEEL

Hartley (1966)

There's no mistaking **Hartley Neel '63**'s troubled state of mind in this portrait. The distant stare and downcast mouth, each so finely detailed; his weighed-down slouch, arms akimbo; the deathly, ashen-green highlights on his face, his arms and the folds of his chinos. He was at a low point psychologically, Hartley says, and his mother captured it.

Then 25, he was a first-year med student at Tufts, having just finished two years of teaching at Dartmouth while he completed a master's in chemistry. At home for the Christmas holiday, he felt disillusioned and conflicted. What disturbed him most was the experience of dissecting cadavers in his gross anatomy class. He wondered if he should drop out, which would probably mean getting drafted into the military just as the Vietnam War was escalating. "Fortunately, I went back to school, finished up and got excited about medicine." He is still a practicing radiologist.



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Mark your calendars for Columbia Reunion 2022, scheduled for early June and celebrating milestone classes ending in 2 and 7, along with the Class of 2021.

Our Columbia connections are more meaningful than ever, so please plan to join us for inspiring programs, social get-togethers and much more!

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Columbia College Today

Winter 2021–22

A CHANGE OF ART

THE CORE CURRICULUM GETS AN EXCITING NEW SYLLABUS

THE 2021 LION'S PRIDE HONOREES

MEET THESE NINE OUTSTANDING YOUNG ALUMNI



ACTRESS / WRITER AMANDA PEET '94

Twice the Talent

Actress Amanda Peet '94 "recognizes the joy" of writing as co-creator of *The Chair*

RELIVE RECONNECT REUNITE



COLUMBIA REUNION 2022

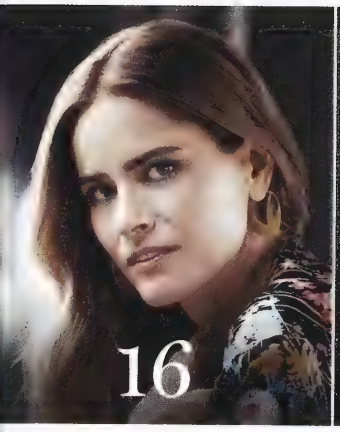
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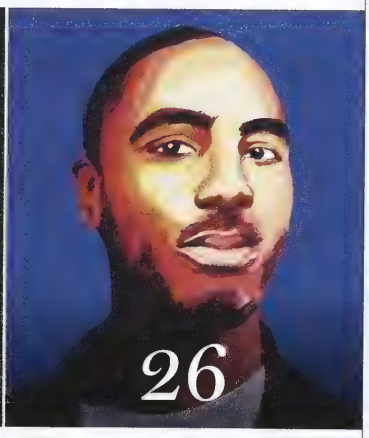
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Cover: Photograph by JSquared Photography / Contour by Getty Images

CCT | Columbia College Today

VOLUME 49 NUMBER 2
WINTER 2021–22

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Published three times a year by Columbia College for alumni, students, faculty, parents and friends.

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ISSN 0572-7820

Opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not reflect official positions of Columbia College or Columbia University.

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Message from the Dean

What I've Learned in a Decade as Dean

This is my penultimate message as dean for *CCT*. I write it after having spent a lot of time this past fall speaking with students, individually and in small groups — my first chance to do so since the pandemic dispersed us in March 2020, and now my last chance in this, my final academic year as head of the College. Perhaps not surprisingly, the most frequently posed question has been, "What have you learned in your more than a decade as dean?" (I was also frequently asked what I plan to do next, and I will address that in my message in the Spring/Summer 2022 issue.)

I've decided to share with you what I told them.

To start, I've recognized that people are the College's and University's most important resource. Not our impressive and growing endowment, not the grand buildings on our magnificent campus, not our most favorable location in this great city. People. Faculty, staff, alumni and, yes, students. I've seen that by valuing people, they are encouraged and empowered to then use Columbia's other resources in the most effective way possible, through their ideas, initiative, dedication and creativity. This leads to the greatest achievements possible, and benefits us all. I suppose I knew that already, but as dean I experienced it on a much greater scale than I had ever encountered, and it became more than an inclination; it became a deep-seated belief.

I came into this role as a chemistry professor whose knowledge was usually adequate to at least get a start on figuring things out in my everyday professional life. But upon becoming dean, I saw within days that the role was too big and required knowledge of too many kinds to depend so much on one's individual knowledge. And so I learned to seek out advisors. I devoted my efforts to finding and hiring people smarter than I, and then I listened to them, which expanded my ability to address the many challenges the College faces. In talking to the thousands of people I have encountered as dean, I've learned that wherever you are, there is certainly someone who knows more than you do, at least about something. Ask people questions and make sure to listen to them. Over time it becomes clear who has the knowledge that can help you.

In an organization as large as Columbia College, with hundreds of faculty and professional staff, thousands of students, and tens of thousands of alumni and friends, every success, large or small, is the product of many people's efforts. The most meaningful and rewarding successes are collective ones, in which many people contribute ideas and focus their energy toward a shared goal. We did that a lot in the College over the last decade. But even as we celebrated successes, I understood that we should strive to improve, to aim higher, to do better — to have aspirations as a way to continue that shared purpose. That awareness came from a pretty good advisor: Long ago, when my age was measured in single digits, my mother would almost daily recite to me this advice, "Good, better, best, never let it rest, 'til your good is better and your better is best." It's a simple saying,

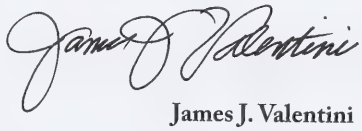


BARBARA ALPER

yet I learned its real value by reciting it to myself and to others in the College so often that it became a theme for us all. I think my mother would have been pleased to know that she made her own contribution to the College.

A clever person, and there are many clever persons reading this, will realize that all of these approaches to being dean reflect the praxis of Beginner's Mind, the openness to possibilities that I have championed with every single class and every single student during my time as dean.

I hope that at least a few of these things I've learned will be adopted by our students in their lives. I hope they are as blessed with opportunities as meaningful and substantial as I have had with the opportunity to lead Columbia College. What great good fortune it has been to be the dean of a school with such distinction. But we all understand that personal good fortune is not a permanent state, and so it is that I near the end of my tenure. The mindfulness teacher Thich Nhat Hanh advised us to cherish the journey, not the destination, when he wrote, "There is no way to happiness, happiness is the way." I have had much happiness on my way every day since September 2, 2011, when I first became dean. I thank all of you for contributing to that. May you find happiness on the way, too.



James J. Valentini
Dean

A Roaring Return

Columbia's Covid-19 protocols allowed for a safe and happy Homecoming! Crowds were overjoyed to gather at Robert K. Kraft Field on October 16 to see the Columbia Lions trounce the Penn Quakers 23–14.

JENNA BASCOM PHOTOGRAPHY





the Big Picture

Letters to the Editor

One-of-a-Kind Authority


JOHN ABBOTT

About too few in this world can it be said that they were "one of a kind." Yet one person emblematic of that accolade was Phil Schaap '73, who sadly passed away in September after a lengthy illness. [Editor's note: See "Obituaries," page 93.]

For several generations, Phil was the jazz mainstay of WKCR. He was, among other exploits, a record producer, recording engineer, liner-note writer and even a nightclub impresario (read: The West End). But most of all, he was a great teacher, a great talker and, seemingly oxymoronically, a great listener.

His passion was teaching others about the wonders of jazz and its great musical contributors by explaining how to appreciate the music through listening. His knowledge was encyclopedic, and he could endlessly expound upon such details as Charlie "Bird" Parker's brief comment on take five of Bird's 1944 record date with Tiny Grimes — where Bird uttered the phrase "It's a drag!" at the conclusion of "Romance Without Finance."

It was Phil who described Bird and his compatriot and fellow genius John Birks "Dizzy" Gillespie as "two halves of a heartbeat." Phil often would cry out "Bird lives!" during his early morning broadcast, *Bird Flight*.

Phil mentored and inspired numerous WKCR jazz personalities, including Sid Gribetz '77; Cliff Preiss '85, TC'06; Sharif Abdus-Salaam '74; Matthew "Fat Cat" Rivera '18; and Charles Iselin SEAS'15, SEAS'20.

My son Ken, formerly general manager and program director of WHRB-FM (Harvard Radio) in Cambridge, Mass., himself a noted jazz authority, also cites Phil as an influence.

Yes, "Bird lives!" But also, "Phil Schaap lives!"

Andrew B. Schultz '64
Franklin Square, N.Y.

Remembering a Great Educator and Friend

Yesterday, with deep sadness, I learned of Professor Deborah Martinsen's passing. [Editor's note: See "Around the Quads"/ In Memoriam, page 10.] She was, of course, a major contributor to Russian and comparative literature, but I am compelled to point out the vital role she played for alumni like me.

I graduated from the College too long ago to have been one of Professor Martinsen's students. Instead, we met when I was an alumnus, more than 15 years ago, through the Mini-Core Courses she planned and implemented for alumni seeking ongoing learning.

It was the beginning of a wonderful relationship. Professor Martinsen's enthusiasm for lifelong education was overflowing and infectious, and she breathed life into the College's alumni education program. Before the Mini-Cores, I took courses and read on my own, but my connection to the fundamental texts of the Core Curriculum had become attenuated.

Professor Martinsen gave alumni like me a path to reconnect and reinforce our bond with the fundamental texts and ideas that, like the Core, helped shape us as undergraduates and continue to be so important in the pursuit of a good life.

Over many years, I got to know and chat with Professor Martinsen before and after classes — about the readings, the College, family, work and everything in between. Early on, I attended these courses with my father (a CC'54) and mother, and Professor Martinsen got to know them as well. When their age and illnesses forced them to stop attending, Professor Martinsen always reached out to inquire of them with genuine concern and empathy.

I am so deeply appreciative of the immense time, effort and passion that Professor Martinsen devoted to bringing alumni closer to alma mater and each other. She provided us with an invaluable and genuine lifelong learning opportunity. I hope that the Mini-Core program continues as a perpetual testament to a great educator and friend.

John V. Vincenti '90
Glen Rock, N.J.

Cover Love

My compliments on the cover of the Fall 2021 issue. I find myself repeatedly looking at it and smiling. Congrats to the artist, Eleni Kalorkoti.

Joseph L. Romanelli '62
Jerusalem

Pride for Olympic Performances

I asked my rowing coach if she had any videos of elite rowing races. In the one that she gave me, I saw that she was in the Olympics. Upon returning the video, I said, "Barb, you didn't tell me that you were in the Olympics!"

She replied, "I came in last."

I said, "That means that you were sixth in the world!"

It warmed my heart to read "Congratulations, Olympic Lions!" (Fall 2021, "Roar, Lion, Roar"), a fusillade against the ramparts of first-place obsession.

Larry Shaper SEAS'65
Thetford Center, Vt.

Contact Us

CCT welcomes letters from readers about articles in the magazine but cannot print or personally respond to all letters received. Letters express the views of the writers and not *CCT*, the College or the University. All letters are subject to editing for space, clarity and *CCT* style. Please submit Letters to the Editor online: **college.columbia.edu/cct/contact-us.**

Around the Quads



EILEEN BARROSO

Dean James J. Valentini To Step Down

After 10 years at the helm of Columbia College, Dean James J. Valentini will conclude his term at the end of this academic year, in June 2022. A former chemistry department chair, he was appointed interim dean on September 2, 2011, and College dean on June 11, 2012.

"Serving as dean of Columbia College has truly been the greatest privilege of my professional life," Valentini said in a September message announcing his departure. "I went from a boy whose earliest access to reading materials was a library bookmobile that made occasional visits to our little Appalachian town, to a scientist who was offered the dazzling opportunity to lead a top institution of higher learning."

During his tenure as dean, Valentini was committed to two key priorities: enhancing the student experience and sense of well-being, and shaping a strategic, multi-dimensional vision for the College's future, supported by fundraising initiatives designed to fulfill that vision at every level. Affectionately known as "Deantini," he imparted a sense of joyful pride in the College's distinct identity, and was known for his dedication to Beginner's Mind, the practice of engaging with the world as if seeing everything for the first time, with eyes open to many possibilities.

"Anyone who has worked with Jim for even a short time feels his devotion to the College and his abiding appreciation for its unique and proud history," President Lee C. Bollinger said. "When Jim departs as dean he will be missed as much for the spirit he has brought to the College as for any particular accomplishment, as many and as significant as they are."

Plans to celebrate Valentini's decade of service will be announced as they unfold.

Leadership News

Duchesne Drew '89, president of Minnesota Public Radio since spring 2020, was elected to the University Board of Trustees in November. As president of MPR, Drew manages a network of 46 radio stations serving most of Minnesota. While at the College, he was both a staff writer and news editor for *Spectator,* and tutored at the Double Discovery Center. Drew is one of 14 College alumni on the 24-member board, which oversees Columbia's governance, selecting the president, managing faculty and senior administrative appointments, monitoring the budget and supervising the endowment.



Ted Gregory '74 was named director of diversity initiatives in the Office of Alumni and Development on November 16. In this newly created role, Gregory will be responsible for developing department-wide and unit-specific strategies and action plans to help prevent bias, discrimination and harassment, and to promote diversity, equity, inclusion and antiracism. He comes to the role after nearly nine years as Columbia's director of diversity initiatives and talent retention, focusing on faculty recruitment and retention through the Office of the Provost, and coaching-staff diversity for Athletics.



Columbia Giving Day

The 10th annual Giving Day, held on October 20, raised $27,913,242 for the University through 21,359 gifts. Columbia College led the way among the schools, with 6,499 contributions totaling $6,080,704.25. These gifts provide resources for the College's

central priorities: financial aid, stipends for internships, the Core Curriculum and student life.

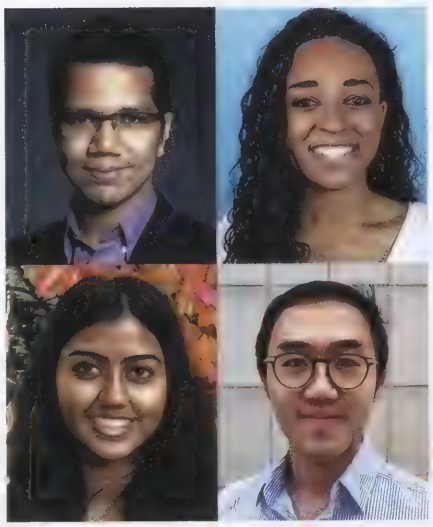
Alumni Awards

Plans are underway for the return of the John Jay Awards Dinner, which celebrates alumni for their distinguished professional achievement; this year's event, which is scheduled for Wednesday, March 2, will honor the 2020 recipients, whose original dinner was canceled due to Covid-19. The honorees are **Michael Barry '89** (president and CEO of Ironstate Development); **Lanny A. Breuer '80, LAW'85** (vice-chair of Covington & Burling); **Anna Fang '04** (founding CEO and partner of ZhenFund); **Poppy Harlow '05** (co-anchor of *CNN Newsroom*); **Wanda Marie Holland Greene '89, TC'21** (head of school at The Hamlin School); and **Victor H. Mendelson '89** (co-president of HEICO Corp.).

The Gerald E. Sherwin Young Alumni Service Award, which honors individuals who have demonstrated exceptional service to the College's young alumni community, was scheduled to be presented to **Riley Jones IV '17** at the Columbia College Alumni Association Board of Directors meeting on January 18. Jones's volunteerism includes being president of the Black Alumni Council and a member of his class's Reunion Committee. He was featured in *Forbes*'s 2019 30 Under 30 for Social Entrepreneurship and was a *CCT* Lion's Pride honoree in 2018.

Academic Awards

Two seniors and one alumnus have been named Rhodes Scholars. The program — the oldest international scholarship in the world — offers 100 fully funded scholarships each year for recipients to pursue postgraduate study at Oxford. **Arman Husein '22,** a double major in economics and history, will pursue an M.Sc. in economic and social history, followed by an M.Sc. in economics for development. **Sydni Scott '22,** a political science major with a minor in African American and African Diaspora studies, plans to pursue an M.Phil. in politics (comparative government). **Andrew Chan '21,** a double major in music and philosophy, plans to pursue an M.Phil. in musicology.



Clockwise from top left: Arman Husein '22, Sydni Scott '22, Andrew Chan '21 and Swati Ravi '22.

In addition, **Swati Ravi '22,** an astrophysics major with a concentration in mathematics and biology, has been selected as a recipient of the George J. Mitchell Scholarship, which provides one year of postgraduate study at a university in either the Republic of Ireland or Northern Ireland. Ravi plans to pursue an M.Sc. in space, science and technology at University College Dublin.

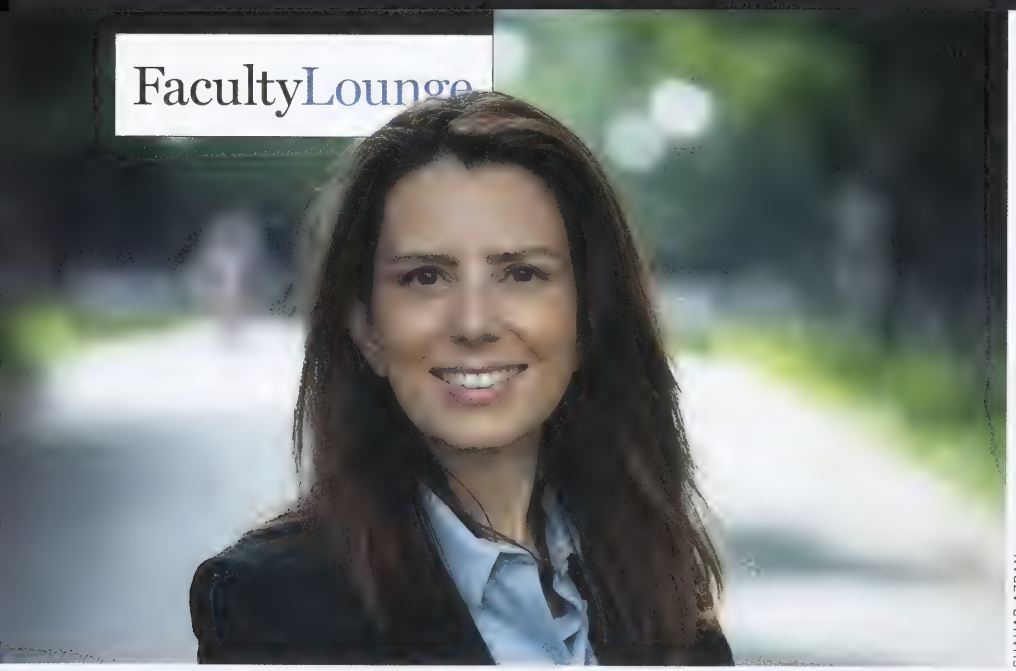


Did*You*Know?

Alma Mater Has Been a Symbol of Columbia for Centuries

Well before the *Alma Mater* statue was placed on Low Steps in 1903, she appeared on Columbia's seal. Samuel Johnson, Columbia's first president (in office from 1754 to 1763), designed the school's seal — which prominently features the personified Alma — in the College's early days as King's College. Minutes from a 1755 University Trustees meeting describe the seal this way: "The College is represented by a Lady sitting in a Throne or Chair of State, with several children at her knees to represent the Pupils … One of them She takes by the hand with her left hand expressing her benevolent design of Conducting them to True Wisdom and Virtue … ."

A "nourishing mother" fostering growth in students through education has remained a symbol of Columbia ever since, with *Alma Mater*'s installation solidifying her place as the heart of Columbia.



SHAHAR AZRAN

Keren Yarhi-Milo

By Jill C. Shomer

There's never been a time in Keren Yarhi-Milo GS'03's life when she wasn't fascinated by diplomatic and military history. Growing up in Israel in a rapidly changing security environment, she often discussed military and political matters with her father, a veteran of several wars. With a dream of one day becoming an ambassador, Yarhi-Milo could speak six languages by the time she got to high school.

Instead of an ambassadorship, she found her place in academia. Now the Arnold A. Saltzman Professor of War and Peace Studies and director of the Saltzman Institute of War and Peace Studies, Yarhi-Milo is a globally recognized expert on international relations and conflict resolution. She is the author of two award-winning books on international security and foreign policy, and her research specializes in interstate communication, crisis bargaining, and the psychology of leaders and decision makers. Recently, Yarhi-Milo was part of a cohort of conflict experts referenced in a *Foreign Affairs* article about American credibility following the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan.

Yarhi-Milo joined the Columbia faculty in 2020, and though her career journey was circuitous, she always knew she wanted to return to Morningside Heights.

In 1998, after completing mandatory military service in Israel — her fluency in Arabic helped land her in intelligence — she started a B.A. in law and government. "The government part was my passion," she says.

She was also passionate about New York City. On a childhood trip with her mother, Yarhi-Milo was most interested to see the United Nations and Columbia's campus. "I had read about Columbia in books, and I just really wanted to be part of that," she says. "When I walked onto the campus for the first time, I couldn't believe how beautiful it was. And then it was a matter of when, not if, I would go there."

While working on her B.A., she moved to New York for an internship at the Mission of Israel to the U.N. It was there she met her husband, Ariel Milo GS'03, then a GS student; he encouraged her to transfer. "I promised everyone back home it would be just for one semester, but now it's been 22 years," she laughs.

As a political science major, she took a life-changing class with Robert Jervis, the Adlai E. Stevenson Professor of International Affairs, who died in December 2021. "What he was doing was so brilliant, and it made so much sense to me," she says. The two had lengthy conversations during his office hours about Middle East security, and Jervis eventually became her mentor. "Bob is the reason I'm in this field. After I graduated I was very clear about going into academia."

Yarhi-Milo earned a master's and a Ph.D. in political science from Penn, then worked as a post-doc at Harvard. She was a tenured associate professor of politics and international affairs at Princeton for 10 years before getting the call to come back to campus.

Though she's relatively new to the faculty, Yarhi-Milo is already deeply involved. She's a member of the University Senate and the Joint CC-GS Committee on Instruction, was recently selected as a Provost Leadership Fellow and is heading the Arts and Sciences committee that is studying a potential College expansion. She's also led the charge to make the Saltzman Institute an intellectual home for Columbia undergrads. "I want this to be a place where their ideas about events and curriculum matter," she says. Yahri-Milo has already launched two new programs at the institute: The Saltzman Student Scholars Program and the Emerging Voices in National Security and Intelligence program.

Since Yarhi-Milo's own path was forged through mentorship, it's understandable that it's a priority for her. "I know how fundamental the experience of being an undergraduate is — that's when I made decisions about what I wanted to do with my life," she says. "It was by sitting in a class and feeling like my professor was a role model. That's what I want to do and be."

One of her favorite classes to teach is a seminar on U.S. foreign policy and crisis decision making that incorporates theory and literature from psychology, economics, behavioral economics, sociology and neuroscience. "My scholarship helped to push this field — the study of decision making — so it's very natural for me to teach," she says. "Every year there are international crises that are happening, so the students are able to make connections between what they are reading and the events they are experiencing. It's new and engaging every time."

In addition to her busy Columbia schedule, Yarhi-Milo is a "very hands-on" mom to her sons, ages 13 and 10, and she always has numerous writing projects in progress. Articles about nuclear commitments and cyberattacks are underway, and an idea for a third book is in the works.

"The challenge is how to juggle the service and the scholarship," she says. "But that's something I'll never compromise on."

In Memoriam: Deborah Martinsen GSAS'90, Dostoevsky Scholar and Core Leader

Deborah Martinsen GSAS'90, a longtime professor and scholar of Slavic literature who specialized in Dostoevsky, died on November 28, 2021. The first female president of the International Dostoevsky Society (IDS), Martinsen was the author and editor of several books on the formidable 19th-century novelist, including a forthcoming volume on her cherished *Crime and Punishment*. She was also a leader and devotee of the Core Curriculum, and possessed an effervescence and intellect that will be remembered by generations of students, alumni and colleagues.

Martinsen was 67 and had battled pancreatic cancer for more than a year.

"Deborah loved Columbia and she engaged with her colleagues, students and alumni with warmth, an expansive and generous spirit and always, a desire to support and contribute to the betterment of whatever was being set out to be achieved," Dean James J. Valentini wrote in a message to the College community on November 30. "Her encouragement for colleagues was limitless; those of us who had the fortune to work with her felt she was always on our side — and she was."

Martinsen's modest nature belied her outsized contributions to the College. She had been the associate dean of alumni education since 2008 and an adjunct associate professor of Slavic languages — the latest of many roles in a tenure that spanned more than four decades. After joining the faculty in 1978, Martinsen taught courses for the Slavic and the English and comparative literature departments on Dostoevsky, Nabokov and others, and she advised undergraduates on senior theses as well as graduate students on dissertations.

Martinsen was also a committed instructor of Literature Humanities, having led course sections for upward of 20 years, and held roles in the Center for the Core Curriculum, both as the assistant to the director of the Core from 2000 to 2005, and then as the director of the Core Curriculum from 2005 to 2008.

In more recent years, Martinsen invested her energy and enthusiasm for the Core in presenting experiences for alumni through Columbia Reunion and Dean's Day talks, Mini-Core Courses and alumni book clubs. Notably, she co-led a special session of the Core Conversations book club last year on *The Decameron*, using the work's relevance during the pandemic to explore what it has to teach readers about surviving in isolation, and the role of stories in creating and maintaining connections with others, even during difficult times.

"Deborah was an enthusiastic and intellectually creative partner in the College's work to support lifelong learning for our alumni," said Michele Moody-Adams, the Joseph Straus Professor of Political Philosophy and Legal Theory, who two years ago co-led a seminar organized by Martinsen. "It provided some of the most personally and intellectually rewarding experiences of my career, due in large part to Deborah's generosity of spirit and her passionate commitment to the people involved and to the plays and ideas we studied."

Martinsen also was the driving force behind what has become known as the Core Ideas publishing project, a series of short, accessible books on authors related to the curriculum. "In her typically selfless way, Deborah played an instrumental role in setting up this series, in planning its vision and aims, in soliciting proposals for volumes and in placing the first books under contract," said Gareth Williams, the Anthon Professor of Latin Language and Literature and a former chair of Contemporary Civilization. "She was a model of efficiency and cheerful hard work in the early days of the project, and when the first volumes in the series appear, they will bear the hallmark of her organizational influence and flair."



Martinsen earned a B.A. in Russian studies and French from Muhlenberg College in Allentown, Pa.; an M.A. in Russian literature from Cornell; and both an M. Phil. and a Ph.D. in Slavic languages and studies from GSAS. An internationally recognized scholar, she was both versatile and prolific. Her book *Surprised by Shame: Dostoevsky's Liars and Narrative Exposure* (2003) was credited as a pathbreaking volume of original insights, and is one of the most quoted sources on Dostoevsky.

She was a co-editor of *Dostoevsky in Context* (2016) and *Teaching Nineteenth-Century Russian Literature: Essays in Honor of Robert L. Belknap* (2014); and the editor of *Literary Journals in Imperial Russia* (1997), an overview of Russian journalism from the 18th to the early 20th century. In 2016, she received the Donald Barton Johnson Prize for best essay published in *Nabokov Studies* that year.

Martinsen was the executive secretary of the North American Dostoevsky Society from 1998 to 2013, and president of IDS from 2007 to 2013. A tribute on the IDS website spoke of her as a sophisticated thinker and an incisive and generous editor, continuing: "Deborah understood that 'everything, like the ocean, flows and comes into contact with everything else. Touch it in one place and it reverberates at the other end of the world.' (*The Brothers Karamazov.*) She 'touched' the world in so many places and these reverberations will remain with us forever."

"Many contributors are indebted to her for judicial editing of their articles; Deborah was thus known to and beloved by scholars around the world," said Irina Reyfman, a professor of Slavic languages and a close colleague and friend. "They mourn with us. The loss is unbearable."

During her illness, Martinsen worked on completing two manuscripts. The first, *Dostoevsky's Crime and Punishment: A Reader's Guide,* will be published in February by Academic Studies Press; it builds on her decades teaching the novel in the Core, as well as teaching others how to teach the novel. The second, *A Very Short Introduction to Dostoevsky,* will be published by Oxford University Press.

Martinsen is survived by her husband, Randall Butler GSAS'05, and son, Rory Butler '13.

LookWho'sTalking

Jason Collado



JILL SHOMER

Assistant Dean, Academic Success Programs, James H. and Christine Turk Berick Center for Student Advising

What drew you to advising in higher ed, and when did you start working at Columbia?

I was always interested in education and providing support to students. I attended graduate school at SUNY Albany, which is where I trained to become a New York State-certified guidance counselor. While there, I worked for its counseling center supporting, supervising and instructing undergraduates. I fell in love with the work. Since then, I have been working in higher education, currently at my third university. I've been involved with leading the Academic Success Programs (ASP) for 15 years.

I read that you focus on "opportunity programs" and supporting under-resourced students. Tell me about that.

I have the best job on campus! ASP is supported by both CC and SEAS and a Higher Education Opportunity Program grant from the New York State Education Department. Our students receive financial support, and in general we provide a life-changing experience for them by helping them to succeed while at Columbia. All participants arrive early to take part in an intensive, pre-first year Summer Bridge Program that provides academic preparation and college and campus readiness, and introduces them to the Columbia community. From there, our comprehensive support continues through all four years.

What's a typical day for you?

There is no typical day — I know that's a cliché answer, but supporting College students, especially those in ASP, makes my job different each day. And that makes the work truly exciting and enriching. From organizing a seminar series, to connecting students to supportive resources, to helping students navigate their Columbia experience in and out of the classroom or their work on required state reports, our team of six is flexible and ready to help when and where needed.

What's the best part of your job?

That our work has an impact. My favorite day of the year is the first day of the Summer Bridge Program. It is also usually the busiest and most stressful, but the most rewarding, as we witness the first steps of a student's journey. We watch our students arrive on and embrace campus, ready to learn and have an impact in many different ways. We have an opportunity to shape them, guide them and ensure they stay on the path of success until graduation, and sometimes beyond. I love when our alumni come back to meet with our current students and share their knowledge, wisdom and experiences. It is amazing to see ASP alumni grown and successful, even though they will always be ASP students in my eyes. I fondly recall their success stories and all the meaningful advising conversations we had.

What's one thing about yourself that would surprise readers?

While in college, I hoped to pursue a career as a baseball coach. In fact, I took classes to earn a certification in sports management, but the program was discontinued. I have more than 20 years of experience coaching baseball and softball on a variety of levels. Pre-pandemic, I was the manager for a Columbia College staff softball team and led it to our most successful (and fun) season ever. I have two energetic and active sons, aged 8 and 4. I coach both of their baseball teams, and coached three other teams this past fall. Our weekends were very busy.

ROAR, LION, ROAR

Memorable Moments in Lions Basketball

By Alex Sachare '71

FROM COLUMBIA'S FIRST GAME — a 24–9 loss to the Paterson (N.J.) YMCA in 1900 — to today's Ivy League play, the Lions have given their fans plenty of indelible moments. To celebrate the return of Columbia basketball, we dug into the archives for some hoops highlights every fan should know. Here's what we compiled before the final buzzer!

Alex Sachare '71 *is a former* Spectator *sports editor, Associated Press pro basketball editor and* CCT *editor-in-chief who has written, edited or contributed to many books on basketball.*



Jim McMillian '70 scored 40 points or more in a Columbia uniform four times, and went on to play nine seasons in the NBA.

1929–30 and 1930–31

Led by George Gregory CC 1931, the first Black player to be selected All-American, and sharp-shooting set shot artist Lou Bender CC 1932, LAW 1935, Columbia wins consecutive Eastern Intercollegiate League (forerunner to the Ivy League) championships.

1947–48

Walt Budko '43, SEAS'47 wins All-Eastern League honors for the fourth consecutive year as he leads the Lions to a 21–1 regular-season record and a berth in the NCAA tournament, where they lost to Kentucky and Michigan at Madison Square Garden.

1950–51

With John Azary '51, Jack Molinas '53 and Bob Reiss '52 leading the way, the Lions win all 22 regular season games by an average margin of 21.1 points to post the only undefeated season in school history. Columbia was ranked second, third and fifth in the three major national postseason polls despite losing to Illinois 79–71 in the NCAA tournament. It was an 85–45 rout of previously unbeaten Cornell on December 6, 1950, that put Columbia on the national basketball map.

DECEMBER 26, 28 and 30, 1967

Despite having lost their previous three games, the Lions entered the Holiday Festival at Madison Square Garden and beat West Virginia 98–71, Louisville 74–67 and St. John's 60–55 to capture the championship of what was at the time the foremost midseason tournament in the country.

MARCH 5, 1968

After Columbia and Princeton compile 12–2 league records, a one-game playoff is held at St. John's to determine the Ivy League champion. The Lions start fast, turn back several rallies by the Tigers and win 92–74, with 37 points and 10 rebounds by Jim McMillian '70. The victory marks their only Ivy title since the league officially began basketball competition in 1956–57.



Alton Byrd '79, Columbia's career assists leader, drives to the basket against Penn at Levien Gym.

ALL PHOTOS COURTESY COLUMBIA ATHLETICS

MARCH 9, 1968

Heyward Dotson '70, LAW'76 scores 32 points as the Lions beat La Salle 83–69 for the only NCAA tournament win in school history. The following weekend, Columbia was eliminated by Davidson in overtime 61–59 and then beat St. Bonaventure 95–75 in a consolation game.

1977–78 and 1978–79

Alton Byrd '79, Columbia's all-time leader with 526 career assists, leads the Lions to Ivy League records of 11–3 and 10–4. A three-time All-Ivy guard, the 5-foot-9-inch Byrd received the 1979 Frances Pomeroy Naismith Award from the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame as the nation's top collegiate player under 6 feet tall.

1984

As the College becomes coeducational, the Columbia-Barnard Athletic Consortium is formed to permit Barnard students to compete alongside Columbia women under the Columbia banner. The first Columbia women's basketball game is played on November 20, 1984, and the Lions beat John Jay College 74–20 en route to a 19–7 season.

FEBRUARY 17, 1986

Ellen Bossert '86 scores 39 points in an 83–82 victory over New Rochelle to set the Columbia women's single-game scoring record. Bossert scores 38 points in the season finale against Buffalo State two weeks later and finishes the campaign with an average of 22.1 ppg. She and Ula Lysniak BC'87 lead the team to a 21–6 record, the most wins in school history.

1986–87

After two seasons in NCAA Division III, where Barnard had competed, the Columbia women move up to Division I and begin competing in the Ivy League this season. In their first Ivy game, the Lions travel to Ithaca and defeat Cornell 65–58 on January 10, 1987.

ROAR, LION, ROAR



1


2


3

1. Judie Lomax BC'10 twice led the nation in rebounding.

2. The 2016 CIT-champion Lions cut the nets in Levien Gym.

3. Camille Zimmerman '18 leads the Lions in career points and rebounds.

MARCH 5, 1988

Columbia's women outlast Penn 114–111, the combined total of 225 points being the most ever scored in a Columbia basketball game, men or women.

FEBRUARY 15, 1991

Buck Jenkins '93 scores 47 points in a 92–77 win at Harvard to set the Columbia men's single-game scoring record. Jenkins finished his career with 1,767 points, the highest total in school history.

2009–10

Led by two-time NCAA Division I rebounding champion and Ivy League Player of the Year Judie Lomax BC'10, Columbia's women compile a 9–5 Ivy record, their first winning season in league play, and an 18–10 overall mark. The 18 total wins and nine Ivy wins are the most for Columbia women since moving up to Division I in 1986.

MARCH 29, 2016

Columbia beats UC Irvine 73–67 in Levien Gymnasium to win the CollegeInsider.com Postseason Tournament. Led by Maodo Lo '16 (above), Grant Mullins '16, Alex Rosenberg '16 and Luke Petrasek '17, the Lions compile a 25–10 record, the most wins in one season.

2016–17

Camille Zimmerman '18 scores 608 points and averages 22.5 ppg, both school records, and is named the Metropolitan Basketball Writers Association Women's Player of the Year for the NYC area. She finishes her career with 1,973 points and 940 rebounds, also school records.

DID WE MISS YOUR FAVORITE HOOPS MEMORY?

Let us know: cct@columbia.edu.

In Memoriam: Bill Steinman, Longtime Sports Information Director



GENE BOYARS / COLUMBIA ATHLETICS

William C. "Bill" Steinman, Columbia's former sports information director (SID) who was affectionately nicknamed "Stats" for his prodigious recordkeeping, and encyclopedic knowledge of sports history and statistics, especially when it came to the Lions, died on September 21, 2021. He was 76 and lived in New York City.

Steinman was Columbia's SID from 1984 to 2010, following 14 years as assistant SID, and was well known and highly regarded in the industry nationwide. He was inducted into the Columbia University Athletics Hall of Fame in 2010, and was historian emeritus for Athletics until his death.

"Bill's passion for Columbia was second to none," said the Campbell Family Director of Intercollegiate Athletics and Physical Education Peter Pilling. "He touched the lives of so many Columbians, from student-athletes and staff members to the countless members of his student staff that he mentored."

"Perhaps Bill's most significant legacy was in helping shape the professional careers of undergrads," echoed former SID Kevin DeMarrais '64, who brought Steinman to Columbia from the then-New York Nets, where Steinman had been head statistician. "He was especially good at working with reporters from *Spectator* and WKCR, and led several of them to great jobs in newspapers, radio, television and public relations."

Steinman worked closely with four athletics directors, directing media coverage and helping to publicize Columbia's 1983 run to the NCAA men's soccer championship game and numerous NCAA fencing championships, among other events.

"Bill was a consummate professional whom you could always depend on," former athletics director M. Dianne Murphy said. "He was a gentle and kind soul, and a wonderful person to engage in conversation. I admired him for doing everything behind the scenes in such an unassuming and quiet way. He was not looking for glory — he loved his job, he loved sports and loved our Columbia Blue."

Steinman received the Distinguished Service Award in 1999 from the Metropolitan Basketball Writers Association, and the following year he was given both the Irving T. Marsh Award from the ECAC Sports Information Directors Association and the Elmore "Scoop" Hudgens Sports Information Director Award from the All-American Football Foundation. In 2010, the College Sports Information Directors of America presented Steinman with a Lifetime Achievement Award.

A graduate of Hofstra, Steinman was predeceased in April 2021 by his brother, Jim, a Grammy Award-winning composer.

— *Alex Sachare '71*

Columbia University Summer Session



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Session A: May 23–July 1

Session B: July 5–August 12

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Session A: May 23–July 1

Session B: July 5–August 12

Summer Immersion
Immersive programs for domestic and international high school students interested in living and studying in New York City and online.

New York City Immersion	Online Immersion
Session 1: June 27–July 15	Session 1: July 5–July 15
Session 2: July 19–August 5	Session 2: July 18–July 29
Session 3: August 8–August 12	Session 3: August 1–August 5

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Twice the Talent

Actress Amanda Peet '94 "recognizes the joy" of writing as co-creator of *The Chair*

By Scott Meslow

When Amanda Peet '94 first approached her husband, the writer David Benioff, and asked for honest feedback on something she'd been writing, she did so with trepidation. Benioff was an acclaimed novelist whose career launched into the stratosphere when he co-created an HBO series called *Game of Thrones*. (You might have heard of it.) Peet was, and is, an actress. Her breakout performance in 2000's *The Whole Nine Yards* led to a big-screen run in movies as varied as the romantic comedy *Something's Gotta Give*, the political thriller *Syriana* and the blockbuster disaster film *2012*. But as enviable as that track record might be, she had always been curious to try her hand at writing.

On its face, the conversation was less than promising. "He was ... fairly harsh," says Peet, recalling Benioff's candid breakdown of the numerous places where he felt her writing was lazy or thin.

You might think that receiving this particularly withering feedback, from this particularly qualified source, would be enough to make someone hang up their pen and notebook for good. For Peet — after she "cried in the corner," she allows — it was exactly what she needed to confirm she was on the right track. "I took it as a huge compliment," says Peet. "It felt like he thought I had potential. If he *didn't*, he would have just sweet-talked me. And then he would have been like, 'What about that part they offered you on *NCIS*?'"

What a difference a decade makes. Last summer, Peet debuted *The Chair*, a Netflix series she co-created with Harvard academic-turned-screenwriter Annie Julia Wyman. She also co-wrote the first three episodes.

If the old saying is "write what you know," Peet didn't need to look too far for inspiration. *The Chair* is set at Pembroke, a (fictional) East Coast university, and creating it led Peet to reflect on her own years at the

Peet photographed in Los Angeles for *Emmy* magazine in January 2020.

ELISABETH CAREN / CONTOUR RA BY GETTY IMAGES



GLEN WILSON

ABOVE Peet with Matt Damon in a scene from the 2005 film *Syriana*.

RIGHT Blythe Danner and Sarah Jessica Parker in *The Commons of Pensacola* (2013). The Off-Broadway dramedy was Peet's playwriting debut.

College, in the early '90s. It was a creatively diverse and fulfilling time in her life. After letting her interests dictate the classes she took the first two years, she says, she belatedly decided to major in American history because she realized it was the only field in which she already had enough credits to graduate on schedule.

At the same time, Peet auditioned for, and was accepted by, an independent acting program taught by legendary instructor Uta Hagen. Hagen, a Tony-winning actress who originated the role of Martha in *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* on Broadway, had a roster of students that included such luminaries as Steve McQueen, Faye Dunaway and Robert De Niro. "It started to feel like acting was something that was an option for me as a vocation instead of just a hobby," says Peet. "For so long, I had thought of it the same way I thought about playing soccer after school." Peet's family urged her to temper her expectations, though. "I came from a very traditional family, so the idea of going off to be an actress was frowned upon," says Peet. "If I had started by going to Yale Drama, I'm sure they would have looked at me differently. But that's not how I started. I started doing a Blistex commercial."

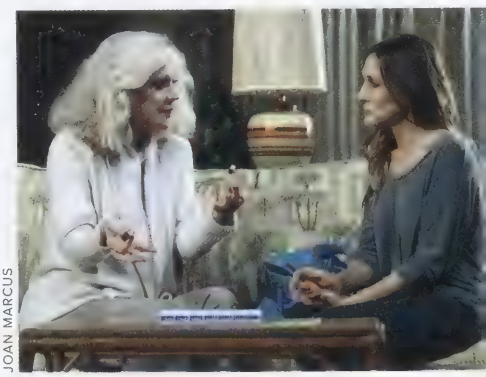
It wasn't long before Peet booked parts with a little more rigor, including an Off-Broadway role in the revival of the Clifford Odets play *Awake and Sing!* But even as her acting career started to take off, Peet was nagged by the road she hadn't taken: as a writer, building on the short stories she'd quietly worked on since college. When asked why she didn't continue to write, even while pursuing acting, Peet pauses and thinks for a long time before answering. "I am haunted by that question," she finally says. "I don't know. I don't understand why I didn't recognize the joy that I was finding in it."

In the years that followed, the question never quite faded away, until Amanda Peet, Actress, finally decided it was time to make room in her life for Amanda Peet, Writer. With the encouragement of family and friends, Peet developed an unusual creative process: sitting not at a desk but on the floor, for hours and hours, hunched over her laptop as she worked out dialogue, characters and plots. Whenever she finished something, she would print it out and read it, only trusting her eye for self-critique when she could see her words on an actual piece of paper. "I'll look at it on the computer and I'll say, 'God, this is so brilliant. I can't believe how good I am.' And then, when I print it out, I see that it's dreck," she says.

Any career in writing comes with a fair amount of rejection, and Peet's was no different. After NBC's *Studio 60 on the Sunset Strip,* in which she had a lead role, was canceled in 2007, Peet wrote a TV script with her friend Andrea Troyer, wife of Benioff's *Game of Thrones* co-creator D.B. Weiss. Nobody bit. She wrote a pilot with Benioff; that didn't go anywhere either. She even wrote an unproduced play set at Columbia in the mid-'90s, with a story that took place during a single night in the dorms. That one made it as far as workshops, but Peet sounds skeptical about revisiting it now: "David and I talk a lot about the dangers of going back to some of your earlier work. Sometimes there's a reason something didn't achieve liftoff."

In 2013, Peet finally made her debut as a playwright with *The Commons of Pensacola,* a barbed dramedy about what happens to an upper-crust New York family after its patriarch is exposed as a Wall Street cheat. (Peet's characters are fictional, but the parallels to the Madoff family are clear.) When *The Commons* premiered Off-Broadway, *The New York Times* praised Peet's "easily flowing dialogue, laced with biting humor and a brash streak of vulgarity." The paper also noted that, at one point, Peet planned to play the lead role herself. In the end, Sarah Jessica Parker starred.

It's an interesting quirk that while most of Peet's works feature at least one character she could clearly play, she has never actually acted in something she's written. For now, at least, the two sides of her career remain separate. "I always start out writing for myself, and then I get to a certain place — and then I can't do anymore, for lack of inspiration. And then, as soon as I think of the right actor, I can keep going," she says.



JOAN MARCUS

The Chair was no different. The series came, in part, out of Peet's frustration over the abrupt cancellation of the HBO show *Togetherness,* in which she starred for two seasons. The series was co-created by brothers Mark and Jay Duplass, and Peet felt her work with them wasn't finished. Switching back to her writer's hat, she began imagining a romantic comedy with Jay Duplass in mind as the lead, building out the premise from a vague, unformed idea about a widower who starts to date again as his daughter goes off to college.

At the same time, Peet was kicking around a separate idea about a female supervisor trying to navigate her personal and professional life when a male colleague — already a close friend, and possibly something more — transgresses in a way that forces her to act. "How would she feel if she were somewhat in love with this



Sandra Oh plays the head of a fictional English department in Peet's *Netflix* drama, *The Chair*.

ELIZA MORSE / NETFLIX

person, and his fate was in her hands?" Peet recalls wondering. "What would she *do*?"

In one of the lightbulb moments that writers occasionally experience once they've spent the proper amount of time hunched over a laptop, Peet realized that her two ideas could be, and should be, the same story. The widower/transgressor would be played by Duplass. For the female lead, she imagined Sandra Oh, and began the almost alchemical process of crafting the series' arcs with her two ideal actors in mind. "I started watching Sandra's stuff again, and looking at pictures of her, and looking at pictures of her with Jay, and watching her in interviews, and almost falling in love with her," Peet says. "It's like a muse situation. It's a little bit creepy."

Though Peet initially thought she might set her story in a hospital, she eventually settled on a university, and enlisted Wyman as her co-creator to ensure she depicted academia authentically. It was, they quickly discovered, a potent breeding ground for natural drama. The buzz inside the English department in *The Chair* reflects a hornet's nest of real-life problems that can be found at real-life universities: tensions between long-tenured faculty and new professors interested in shaking up old traditions; disagreements that arise when strong-willed faculty members are challenged by similarly strong-willed students; and difficult choices related to ever-shrinking budgets, especially in a "soft science" department like English that's increasingly forced to justify its value.

All these topics are united by Oh's Ji-Yoon Kim, the newly appointed chair who struggles to hold the department together in the midst of a scandal when Professor Bill Dobson (Duplass) sardonically performs a Nazi salute while making a larger point about absurdity and fascism in an English seminar. A clip of the lecture, shorn from its greater context, soon goes viral on social media, creating a scandal that ultimately engulfs the department altogether.

Since *The Chair* premiered, Peet has heard from a number of actual university faculty and administrators, who are eager to weigh in on how accurately the series reflects their own experiences. "Some people felt like the old people [in the English department] who are so behind the times are clichés. Too cartoonish," she says. "And then other people said, 'That's *exactly* how it is.'"

> **"I always start out writing for myself, and then as soon as I can think of the right actor, I can keep going."**

The Chair marked Peet's debut as a showrunner, and for an actress who has spent most of her career getting glammed up for cameras and red carpets, being on the other side of it all proved liberating. "I loved how I got to wear really, really dirty sweatpants every day," she says. "My hair was a rat's nest. I felt so guilty rolling in at 6:30 when I knew that Sandra had been in the makeup trailer since 5:45."

At this point, Peet isn't sure if *The Chair* will return for a second season; she has some ideas for where the story might go, but she's playing those cards close to her vest. But as it becomes clear to Hollywood that Peet is a genuine double threat, she'll be able to choose which projects she wants to do *and* whether she wants to be in front of the camera, behind the camera, or both. When asked what, ideally, she'd like to do next, Peet sounds both open-minded and eager to figure it out. "I think the issue is just good writing. Wherever you can find it," says Peet. And as she's discovering, the answer might actually be on her own computer screen.

Scott Meslow *is a senior editor for* The Week *magazine and a writer and critic for publications including* GQ, Vulture *and* The Atlantic. *His first book,* From Hollywood With Love: The Rise and Fall (and Rise Again) of the Romantic Comedy, *will be published in February.*

A Core cornerstone undergoes its first major change in decades

WHAT'S NEW, ART HUM?

By Jill C. Shomer

Last fall, during a season of already-radical paradigm shifts on campus, one of the College's most enduring courses underwent a transformation of its own. Art Humanities — among the last pillars to be added to the Core Curriculum, in 1947 — was significantly updated for the first time in its nearly 75-year history.

The new approach reflects the imperative of a more contemporary perspective, and is headlined by a notably more inclusive syllabus. Associate Professor Noam Elcott '00, the former Art Hum chair who championed the review process, says the newly diverse roster has helped to cast the whole course in a different light.

"When I took over as chair [in 2018], there was not a single woman artist or a single artist of color on the syllabus," Elcott says. "Today, the majority of units feature one or both. Collectively, the units of Art Humanities are now better able to bridge the gaps of time and space to interrogate vital questions of our presents and open essential windows into our pasts."

The addition of nine artists — some well-known, some more obscure — has opened entirely new avenues of discourse on subjects such as gender, race, family life, identity and access to education. New to the syllabus are Sofonisba Anguissola, Luisa Roldán, Clara Peeters, Angelica Kauffman, Berthe Morisot, Mary Cassatt, Romare Bearden, Jean-Michel Basquiat and Cindy Sherman.

Significantly, greater diversity allows instructors to ask questions that take other viewpoints into account: "Previously, the question of the male gaze and the female nude was thematized in the course, but there were no women artists to offer the reverse," Elcott says. "The story is vastly more complex and interesting the moment we add female painters."

Along with changes to the "Art" aspect of the course, Zoë Strother, the Riggio Professor of African Art and the Jonathan Sobel & Marcia Dunn Program Chair for Art Humanities, says that boosting the "Humanities" part has been a major ambition of the reform. "We are prioritizing the big questions that concern us today, and doing a better job of engaging critical issues of contemporary relevance," she says.

To best achieve that, Art Hum instructors meet five times a year for a seminar that operates like a quasi-think tank; participants and prominent guests discuss how to connect with students about the challenging issues that are transforming visual culture. "We used to just have content lectures that had nothing to do with what was happening in the classroom or the world," Strother says. The seminar complements a weekly course designed for first-time instructors, which has been reformatted to focus on pedagogy. "This new style of briefings is working really well; I'm hearing a lot of compliments."

A third component of the Art Hum update is regular syllabus review. "It's now contractual that there is reform every three years," Strother says. "We'll no longer be fossilized. The changes might not be as radical, but it will keep the syllabus alive and help us continue to tinker with it." The next review will begin this year and go into effect in 2023.

Reflecting on the effort that went into the change, Elcott pointed to the graduate students and faculty who thought outside the box and outside their comfort zones to reimagine Art Hum. "The goal was not to create a new canon, but to rethink what we could do with the course," he says. "What's great is that many people feared that by sidelining the question of canon we'd lost the thread that connects all of the units. But it's been quite the contrary — we now see a much richer and complex braiding of art and history from ancient times to the present."

Here, we've put together a guide to some of the new artworks, detailing how they broaden and enrich the student experience of Art Hum.



Self-Portrait at the Easel
Sofonisba Anguissola, 1556

Though Anguissola may be largely unknown, she was in fact the most important female artist of the Renaissance. While contemporaries like Raphael were focused on portraying idealized types, Anguissola painted actual people, with a greater sense of realism. As demonstrated here, she was also a successful self-portraitist. "The question of self-presentation is brought into the mix in a manner that speaks obviously and immediately to a generation obsessed with selfies," Elcott says. "Suddenly, we're able to bridge the 500-year gap between the Renaissance and the present."

Still Life with Flowers, a Silver-Gilt Goblet, Dried Fruit, Sweetmeats, Bread Sticks, Wine, and a Pewter Pitcher
Clara Peeters, 1615

Peeters, now being taught alongside Rembrandt, helped to introduce the still life as a significant genre of painting. "With the preponderance of food photos on Instagram, this is immediately recognizable to undergraduates," Elcott says with a laugh. "It introduces a level of intimacy, of wealth, of showing off — she embeds self-portraits in reflections on the glasses and dishes." The inclusion of exotic fruits and objects in Peeters's paintings also expresses a nascent history of colonialism and slavery. "What look like benign objects carry the traces of the maritime powers of the 17th century," Elcott says. "This prompts questions we weren't able to ask previously."





Zeuxis Choosing his Models for his Painting of Helen of Troy
Angelica Kauffman, 1778

Kauffman was a successful portraitist and also a history painter, which Elcott says was exceedingly rare at the time. This work tells the story of the Greek painter Zeuxis, who in order to portray the world's most beautiful woman, synthesized parts of five models into an ideal whole. In Kauffman's version, one model has snuck behind Zeuxis and grabbed a paintbrush, turning toward Zeuxis's empty canvas. What does it mean for a woman to hold the brush, rather than be the object of idealization?

What does it mean for a woman to hold the brush?



Mother and Sister of the Artist
Berthe Morisot, 1869–79

Morisot, a mainstay of the Impressionist movement, portrays home life for the first time in Art Hum. "We see her representing her mother and sister, in an intimate, private, domestic world in which men were not allowed," Elcott says. "In 19th-century French and English, the phrase 'public woman' was a euphemism for a prostitute — the women in Éduoard Manet's paintings are often assumed to be prostitutes or at least hold that potential. Morisot, by contrast, represents private women, and it's a realm that we had no access to before the curriculum reform."

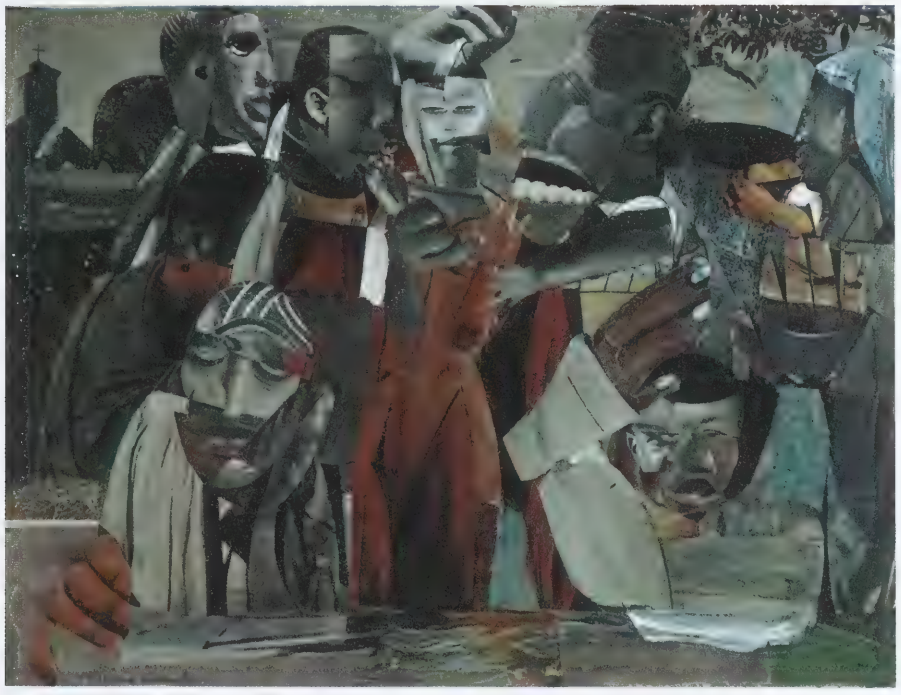


Les Demoiselles D'Avignon
Pablo Picasso, 1907



Kru mask
1910

The Prevalence of Ritual (Baptism)
Romare Bearden, 1964



Elcott says the unit on Picasso and Bearden is about three things: the men as artists, Africa and its legacies in Western art, and the practice of collage. The first artists of color who enter the curriculum are the anonymous artists who created the African masks collected by Picasso, which were hugely influential to Cubism and the history of 20th-century art. "Picasso borrowed from these masks to revolutionize art, and Bearden's discovery of African masks and African art comes through Picasso," Elcott says. "Both Picasso and Bearden seem to treat Africa as something of an abstraction — Bearden never represents a single, whole, mimetic African-American or African individual. They are deeply complex representations that merge photographs, painting, paper, stereotypes, anti-stereotypes, all of these things together."



Olympia
Éduoard Manet, 1863

Manet sometimes featured people of color in his work — most famously, the maid in *Olympia*. The role of the maid was largely ignored in art history until 1982, when Basquiat painted *Untitled (Maid from Olympia)*. "Manet lifted figures wholesale from 17th-century art, appropriated them and mutated them into his own canvases. Then Basquiat lifts elements from Manet and other artists, doubling down on Manet's initial interrogation of the tradition and expanding that interrogation exponentially," Elcott says. "Basquiat draws on a wider range of sources and traditions than any other artist on the syllabus and speaks to a present in which all cultures and all histories are available to us."



Untitled (Maid from Olympia)
Jean-Michel Basquiat, 1982



In the Loge (At the Opera)
Mary Cassatt, 1878

"If ever there were a painting that complicates the male gaze and the female gaze, surely it is this one."

Untitled Film Still #54
Cindy Sherman, 1980



In this Cassatt painting, a woman is absorbed in the spectacle on stage, but a man in the background peers at her, and by extension, at us. "If ever there were a painting that complicates the male gaze and the female gaze, surely it is this one," Elcott says. "This long trajectory of self-portraits [that consider] the male gaze, a woman's role in society, and the private versus the public, is picked up again with the only living artist in the course, Cindy Sherman." Sherman's *Untitled Film Stills*, a set of 70 photos that feature the artist in the guise of generic female movie characters, creates conversation about stereotypical portrayals of women.



THE 2021 LION'S PRIDE HONORS

CCT AND CCYA SPOTLIGHT NINE INSPIRING YOUNG ALUMNI

WELCOME to the second installment of Lion's Pride, a celebration of outstanding alumni from the last decade. With thanks to Columbia College Young Alumni for its partnership in soliciting nominations, we're excited to introduce our nine honorees — a cohort with a distinct bent toward engaging with the pressing issues of our time: social, political, environmental, cultural. These Columbians are creating space for and provoking necessary conversations; working toward solutions in their respective spheres; reshaping perceptions; and using their creativity to empower themselves and others. Notably, many of them have made their own opportunities. And they all push themselves for what they believe in. At a time when it often seems there's a lot in the world that needs changing, we're glad to have them on the case.

— *The Editors*

INTERVIEWS AND TEXT BY NATHALIE ALONSO '08, ALEXIS BONCY SOA'11 AND JILL C. SHOMER • ILLUSTRATIONS BY ALYSSA CARVARA



Isabel King '13

What does a professional athlete do with no events to compete in?

Triathlete Isabel King '13 found herself contemplating that question in March 2020, only a few months after shelving a newly earned M.B.A. to take a chance on her dream of pro cycling. The timing was unfortunate, and though King could still safely train, she wasn't content to leave it at that. "'There's got to be something more that I can do,'" she recalls thinking.

That something turned out to be Mountains for Medics, a fundraiser to help the healthcare workers who were manning the Covid-19 front lines. The California-based King pledged to ride a grueling 112 miles and climb 12,000 vertical ft., each day for three consecutive days, through her "backyard" in the Santa Monica and Malibu mountains. "I wanted to emulate the three-day, 12-hour shifts that the frontline workers were doing," she says. The ride raised more than $20,000 for the UCLA Patient Care and Healthcare Provider Protection Fund.

King's philanthropy didn't end there. After the ride she joined one of her training partners, former Indiana Pacers shooting guard Reggie Miller, to design a "Say Their Names" bike jersey as a fundraiser for the Equal Justice Initiative. Their project, in connection with sports retailer Castelli, raised more than $70,000 and was the best-selling jersey in the company's history.

King's journey to becoming a pro cyclist was, by her own admission, "non-logical and non-linear." A co-captain of the Columbia soccer team, she graduated with a psychology major yet



Coleman Hughes '20

Coleman Hughes '20 isn't your average up-and-coming podcaster.

Two years into his wide-ranging interview show, Conversations with Coleman, he's already hosted figures like renowned intellectual Noam Chomsky, astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson GSAS'92, and journalists Megyn Kelly and Ezra Klein. In fact, the podcast life is going so well that last spring Hughes stepped away from his roles as a fellow with the conservative Manhattan Institute for Policy Research and a contributing editor to its magazine, *City Journal*, to devote himself entirely to his audio venture.

Hughes, who has been a guest on podcasts such as Making Sense with Sam Harris, as well as on TV's *Real Time with Bill Maher,* attributes his show's growth to his penchant for asking questions that go beyond the surface of his guests' expertise. "I feel like I've succeeded when my guest tells me, 'This was a more-interesting-than-average interview,'" says Hughes. "I hope that's one thing that's appealing about my podcast to them."

Hughes describes his podcast as a "platform that champions free speech, free thought and open debate." In that spirit, he tackles an array of issues, including race, science and culture. As an independent podcaster, Hughes relishes the autonomy that comes with choosing guests and discussion topics. "I don't have to restrict myself," he says.

Outside the studio, Hughes's commentary on social issues has appeared in *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post,* and in the online magazine Quillette, among other publications. He was still in college when *Post* columnist Megan McArdle called him a "thinker to be reckoned with." And his impressive trajectory landed him on *Forbes*'s 2021 "30 Under 30" list in the media category.

Hughes's current path is vastly different from the one he envisioned when he enrolled at Juilliard after high school. The New Jersey native was studying to be a jazz musician when his mother passed away unexpectedly. The loss left Hughes pondering the meaning of life and "what the point of it all is" — questions that prompted him to apply to the College. He studied philosophy, a background that has become the foundation of Conversations with Coleman. "It gets you down to first principles, which is a very good thing as an interviewer," Hughes says of his major.

Hughes says he has found that the solitary nature of listening to podcasts encourages him to question his beliefs, and hopes that his show will have the same effect on listeners. "That experience is really profound," he says. "I want to give that to people because I've found it so valuable in my own life."

pursued a career in finance. After four years on the trading floor at UBS, she enrolled in business school at UCLA Anderson, and also discovered a love for triathlons. She decided to balance the two, attending classes while training 20 hours a week. She qualified to compete as a professional triathlete in her fourth Half-Ironman race in 2019.

In 2020 King switched her focus from triathlons to off-road mountain bike and gravel riding. She's a "privateer," meaning that rather than being part of a sponsored road cycling team, King is her own boss: "I treat myself as my own business entity. I layer together sponsors that I believe fit with my brand and that I want to represent. I get to choose the races that I want to go to."

Last year, as pandemic restrictions eased, King traveled throughout the United States to compete. Asked what the off-road experience is like, she points to a race called "Unbound Gravel," in Emporia, Kans. — "200 miles of farm roads, stopping every four or five hours to refuel with food and water. You're literally in the middle of nowhere, following a little bike computer telling you where to go. It's wild."

Asked what's next, King references her father. "My dad had a saying: 'Keep your knees bent.' It came from skiing moguls — sometimes you're not going to see the bump in the road, but if your knees are bent you can absorb the bump and continue down the mountain. So, I'm just going to keep my knees bent, say 'yes' to opportunities and see where I can go."

"I treat myself as my own business entity. I get to choose the races that I want to go to."



Julian Brave NoiseCat '15

To describe analyst, advocate and writer Julian Brave NoiseCat '15 as "prolific" hardly does justice to the volume of his work on Indigenous rights and climate justice. But it's the substance of that work — coupled with the authority of his experience as an Indigenous person — that earned him a spot on this year's "*TIME* 100 Next" list of emerging leaders.

NoiseCat is VP of policy and strategy at Data for Progress, a think tank that supports progressive causes through polling and policy development, and which has become influential among the highest ranks of the Democratic party. Much of his work in that role has been in the service of climate platforms like the Green New Deal, a focus he says stems naturally from his heritage as a member of the Secwepemc First Nation and a descendant of the Líl̓wat Nation of Mount Currie of British Columbia. "Indigenous peoples, by definition, have a deep history with a place and the land and water where they come from," NoiseCat says.

As an activist, NoiseCat has been heavily involved in grassroots campaigns in support of Indigenous peoples. At Columbia, he played a key role in the creation of Manhattan House, a residential special interest community for Indigenous students. And in 2019, he helped organize a high-profile canoe journey in San Francisco Bay that brought together Indigenous communities from as far west as Hawaii. The event commemorated the 50th anniversary of the 1969 Alcatraz Occupation, a 19-month long intertribal protest that drew attention to the land rights concerns of Native Americans in the United States. "That movement was incredibly impactful in the United States and in broader Indigenous history, but it remains, I think, unrecognized and uncelebrated," says NoiseCat, who was born and raised in Oakland, Calif. "We wanted to continue the spirit of that movement."

NoiseCat's extensive reporting and commentary has appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *National Geographic* and *The Atlantic*, among other publications. He is also a columnist for *Canada's National Observer* and a contributing editor to *Canadian Geographic*, and is working on a forthcoming book that will combine narratives of his life as a contemporary Indigenous man with reporting on Native communities in the U.S. and Canada.

NoiseCat is staunch in his commitment to continue bringing Native issues and perspectives to the fore. "Our continued presence as self-determining Indigenous peoples with distinct cultures, languages and social movements should matter to more people than just ourselves," he says. "That's the idea I've committed my life to."



Nadia Eke '15

How does a premier athlete move forward when their sport is no longer their primary focus? That's the question Olympian Nadia Eke '15 — a Ghanian triple jumper who hung up her sneakers after Tokyo last summer — wants to help others answer as the CEO of the startup Axxelerate.

Eke co-founded Axxelerate in 2020 with Marquel Carter '14 (a former Lions defensive back) and Aniekeme Umoh SEAS'15. The company is developing educational programming and networking opportunities to help athletes discover what they want from their post-athletic careers and to build personal brands that will allow them to find new meaningful employment. Eke's ultimate goal is to empower athletes to "recognize that 'this is the story that I have to tell beyond the sport, and these are the opportunities I can center around that,'" she says.

It has long been Eke's ambition to "build something to help athletes," and Axxelerate is allowing her to leverage her industry connections and insight to do just that. Too often, Eke says, professional athletes are unequipped to transition into the corporate world. "I'm supporting athletes like I always wanted to, but in a unique way that no one else is doing," she says.

Eke certainly knows whereof she speaks, coming off a track and field career in which she became one of the world's top female triple jumpers. She has three IAAF African Athletics Continental medals and in 2019 set the Ghanaian national record in the triple jump — a performance that qualified her for the Olympics. Having already decided to retire from competition after Tokyo, Eke soaked in every moment of the Olympic experience. "Mentally and emotionally, I was ready to walk away from the sport, and to walk away at the highest stage," she says.

A four-time NCAA All-American in track and field and Ivy League nominee for the 2015 NCAA Woman of the Year, Eke also had the honor of being the flag bearer for Team Ghana at the Tokyo games. (She and sprinter Yasmeen Al Dabbagh '19 of Saudi Arabia became the first female Olympic flagbearers in Columbia history.) "To be the flag bearer, for me, was a testament to the value of investing in sports and investing in women," says Eke.

Yet even while rising to the pinnacle of her sport, Eke has always seen herself — and wants others to see her — as more than an athlete. It's why she chose to pursue an Ivy League education. And it is the central tenet of Axxelerate. "You never stop being an athlete and start living your life," says Eke. "We are all multifaceted people."



Shaun Abreu '14

For Shaun Abreu '14, public service is a deeply personal endeavor.

When Abreu was just 9, he and his family were evicted from their Washington Heights apartment. He stayed first with neighbors, and later with his nearby grandmother, before moving to the Bronx. Once his parents got back on their feet, they found a place on the Upper West Side. Now, as an attorney specializing in tenants' rights and a recently elected New York City Council member, Abreu is looking out for a constituency with whom he has a long-held connection. His district — District 7 — includes his childhood home, and is in fact where he's lived and gone to school most of his life.

"You grow up in a neighborhood where they see you going through the worst," Abreu says. "And now in many ways the roles are reversed, and that's what community is about — having each other's backs." He notes the diverse backgrounds and needs of the residents in his district, a long, narrow stretch of the West Side that also includes Hamilton Heights, Manhattanville, West Harlem, Morningside Heights and Manhattan Valley. "It's an honor for me to be in a position to have my community's back, to make sure we're pushing for policies that are going to improve lives."

While in high school, Abreu worked at the Morningside Heights branch of the New York Public Library, on Broadway at 113th Street. "Every day I would pass the University, and it would seem both so far away and so close," he recalls. The future political science major became a student at Columbia's Double Discovery Center and participated in its Freedom and Citizenship program, which included a college-level seminar

in political philosophy. Abreu credits those experiences, and especially the Core Curriculum, with "rewiring" his thinking. "It opened my eyes to the social contract and the obligations we all have to each other, and forced me to think about what role I play in a civil society. What do I want to do, and how can I make my community better?"

Abreu's first and only significant departure from NYC was for law school at Tulane; he graduated in 2018 and the following year began working for the nonprofit New York Legal Assistance Group. He stepped down to join the City Council but notes his experience will help with drafting legislation, and in particular his goal to build on a law that guarantees housing court counsel for low-income tenants facing eviction.

"It's an honor for me to be in a position to have my community's back, to make sure we're pushing for policies that are going to improve lives."

Looking ahead, Abreu hopes for reelection but isn't one to speculate further. "I'm focused on my constituents and doing right by them," he says. "And that's what it comes down to: Focus on the work and you have a bright future."



Bianca Joseph '18

Bianca Joseph '18 is resolute about the need to dismantle the school-to-prison pipeline, the shorthand term for the national trend of calling on law enforcement to handle in-school student misbehavior or rule breaking, even for minor offenses.

It's a battle she's waging on two fronts — as a social worker at a Houston public school that primarily serves economically disadvantaged students of color (the population most often ensnared by the school-to-prison pipeline) and as the founder of Youth Empowerment Through Social Support, a nonprofit that aims to enrich the minds and lives of minority youth through programs that nurture their social and physical environments.

"[These students] are punished more easily," says Joseph, who majored in psychology at the College and earned a master's in social work from Penn. "Their struggles in life are dismissed and they are criminalized from an early age."

Joseph's career path was informed by her experience with the school system in her hometown of Riviera Beach, Fla.: She felt that as a high-achieving student and athlete, she often received more support from teachers and staff than her struggling peers.

As a social worker, Joseph is "adamant about making sure that I'm a kid's first stop instead of the police." She counsels students in grades 6–12 to address anxiety, grief, depression and other mental health concerns so that they can "be present" and focus on school. "I can get them resources and address their mental health and emotional needs. That way they don't come into contact with the prison system," she says. (Such interventions are sorely needed: According to a 2019 ACLU report, 14 million students in the United States attend schools where there is a police presence, but no counselor, nurse, psychologist or social worker.)

Joseph's nonprofit takes a different approach to interrupting the pipeline, by helping high school students of color get into college through its flagship program, the College Admission Network. Joseph launched CAN while attending Penn; to date, it has paired more than 60 high school seniors at three Philadelphia schools with local undergraduates who help them complete their applications and write essays.

Joseph started the program because, while she was recruited by Columbia for track and field, she saw many of her classmates overwhelmed by college applications. "If more students feel supported in applying to college, they are more likely to want to go," she says.

All of the students in the program have been offered admission to at least one college or university, notes Joseph. She hopes eventually to expand CAN to high-need schools in other cities. The program is "self-sustaining," because students who graduate and enroll in college then become advisors for the next cohort. "The idea is that it will be for the community and by the community," Joseph says.



Kosta Karakashyan '19

Bulgarian director, choreographer, dancer and writer Kosta Karakashyan '19 is using his art to fight for LGBTQ+ equality.

As the founding editor-in-chief of the website Out.bg, Karakashyan is creating positive media representation in one of the most homophobic countries in the European Union. He also recently founded his own production company, Studio Karakashyan, as a hub for his film and stage projects and to help launch other Bulgarian artists.

"We are doing a series of master classes and workshops to develop and empower young singers, dancers and actors, and help them create the career they want," Karakashyan says.

His own career in the performing arts wasn't the original plan. Though he had studied ballroom dancing from childhood, Karakashyan comes from a family of doctors and assumed he'd be pre-med. But after being accepted to the College, he was invited to appear as a professional dancer on the Vietnam version of *Dancing with the Stars*. "This whole world of entertainment opened up, so I took a gap year to really think about what I wanted to do," Karakashyan says.

He eventually came to the United States and majored in dance through Barnard. The freedom he felt in New York City was revelatory. "I enjoyed how open Columbia and the city were, in terms of LGBTQ+ rights; it really gave me a space as a gay man to think about how free people can feel, as compared to my own country," he says.

Karakashyan found a new avenue of expression through a class where students create dance



Dominique Nieves '12

Nuyorican actress and filmmaker Dominique Nieves '12 is determined to bring more authentic Latinx stories to the small screen. "Too often, stories representing marginalized people focus on trauma," says Nieves. "We should have representation that reflects those challenges while still being joyful entertainment."

Nieves's conviction comes from experience. A former med student, while still in school she landed a string of acting gigs, including appearances on *Inside Amy Schumer* and *Orange Is the New Black*. But she quickly grew tired of being cast as the "sexy Latina sidekick." So when health issues altered her plans to become a doctor, Nieves decided to create her own roles. Since founding Iron Glove Productions in 2017, her films have been selected by HBO's NY Latino Film Festival and the Official Latino Film and Arts Festival in NYC, among many others.

Last year, Nieves got her first television writing and directing credit — and recognition as a BAFTA Breakthrough Director and Writer — for a story she contributed to the PBS Primetime Broadcast Special *The LATINXPERIENCE*. The film, *Our Lady Lupe*, aired in July. Set in NYC, it features a boy named Chico who meets a supernatural mechanic (Nieves) while trying to get his mother's car fixed. The story draws from the mysticism that was part of Nieves's upbringing in Brooklyn. "*Our Lady Lupe* started as my attempt to incorporate the magical stories I grew up hearing into my urban reality," she says.

Nieves is also elevating other Latinx voices in the industry. In September 2020, during Hispanic Heritage Month, she launched a mentorship initiative for up-and-coming Latinx TV writers. Using the hashtag #ReadLatinxWriters on Twitter, Nieves issued a call for industry professionals — showrunners, agents, executives and the like — who were open to reading and commenting on scripts. Then she invited writers to apply for mentorships and paired about 200 writers with industry insiders. Her goal was twofold: for the mentees to get feedback on their work and to help them forge connections.

Now in its second year, #ReadLatinxWriters is a response to the dearth of Latinx creatives in the entertainment industry: According to a 2020 report by the Writers Guild of America West, the union representing TV writers and screenwriters, just 8.7 percent of television writers identify as Latinx, even though this group is the largest minority in the United States.

Nieves hopes her efforts will lead to greater Latinx presence in TV writers' rooms, and in turn help combat harmful stereotypes. "I really think that storytelling can help to increase empathy, specifically empathy for rarely told stories," she says.

films. He made the documentary *Waiting for Color* about the persecution of LGBTQ+ people in Chechnya; the film has appeared in more than 25 festivals. He later participated in the acclaimed 2020 documentary *Welcome to Chechnya.*

Karakashyan's experiences inspired him to earn a master's in human rights and democratization from the Global Campus of Human Rights in Venice, Italy. He then moved back to Bulgaria and launched Out.bg with the Single Step Foundation.

"I got to create the whole thing from the ground up," he says. So far, response has been positive: Out.bg recently posted a well-received feature about a famous Bulgarian bodybuilder who had come out as a trans woman, portraying her in a feminine light for the first time.

"We provide an alternative and respectful lens," Karakashyan says.

And things are humming at Studio Karakashyan: He recently received funding for an immersive theater project that will open in May, and he's in post-production on his next film, *Surrender,* about male dancers and masculinity.

Karakashyan admits it can be "complicated" being back in Bulgaria — "it's exhausting, to always have to demand the same respect, on a personal and artistic level" — but it's also inspiring him to create the kind of supportive and creative community he enjoyed at Columbia. "I'm interested in bringing together all the nuggets of wisdom I've learned in my work abroad to help people," he says. "I'm trying to find a way to empower artists here."

"I enjoyed how open Columbia and the city were, in terms of LGBTQ+ rights; it gave me a space to think about how free people can feel."



Arianna Menzelos '21

A passion for climate change — the defining issue of our time — led Arianna Menzelos '21 directly from Morningside Heights to Pennsylvania Avenue.

After interning at the White House Council on Environmental Quality last spring, in August Menzelos assumed the role of special assistant to National Climate Advisor Gina McCarthy. As such, the recent College grad is in the thick of the action at the White House Office of Domestic Climate Policy, created by President Biden to oversee a government-wide response to the increasingly urgent climate crisis. It's Menzelos's job to ensure that her team of 20 is prepared for the day's agenda, making her a key cog in the office's operations. "I've had the privilege of engaging with people who are knowledgeable and passionate about climate work," she says of her time on the job so far.

Menzelos, who majored in sustainable development, was on her high school's sustainability council and knew early on that she wanted to focus on environmental issues. She was drawn to climate policy at the College when she "started taking classes that pointed me to the ways in which the climate crisis intersects with all other issues." Menzelos points to "Climate Change Law and Policy," taught by Michael Gerrard '72, founder and director of Columbia's Sabin Center for Climate Change Law, as one that continues to resonate. "It gave a really in-depth dive into the policy levers for combating climate change that I am able to see my team [at the White House] work on," she says.

These days, Menzelos finds herself handling quite a few memos, a format she became familiar with during a sophomore year internship at the Sabin Center, where she conducted research on topics ranging from gas stove emissions in New York to the history of the Tennessee Valley Authority. Menzelos later interned at the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority and was a policy volunteer on Biden's presidential campaign. And, as a junior fellow at the progressive think tank Data for Progress, she co-authored the Green Marshall Plan, a foreign policy strategy for developing and adopting clean technology.

Climate activism was also an important component of Menzelos's time on campus: She was one of the leaders of Columbia for Carbon Neutrality, a student-led campaign to persuade the University to commit to becoming carbon neutral by 2030.

Menzelos won't speculate where her career might take her, but says that her work in Washington, D.C., has already shown her that there's more than one angle from which to tackle climate-related issues. "It's just a fascinating scientific, political and economic problem," Menzelos says.

Columbia | Forum

One for the Great Books

Roosevelt Montás '95 credits the liberal arts for transforming his life

What is the value of a liberal arts education?

The question has dogged colleges and universities in recent years, as critics have sown skepticism about its real-world applications and made assumptions about its tendency to advance limited or outdated points of view. There can also be the perception of elitism to contend with: that a liberal arts education is accessible only to the privileged few who can afford it.

Not so, says Roosevelt Montás '95, GSAS'04, a former director of the Center for the Core Curriculum, who argues persuasively for the transformative nature of the liberal arts in *Rescuing Socrates: How the Great Books Changed My Life and Why They Matter for a New Generation* (Princeton University Press, $24.95). Montás makes his case largely by way of memoir: He immigrated to Queens from the Dominican Republic when he was 11 — a three-and-a-half-hour flight, but an "incalculable" distance — and credits the liberal arts for profoundly shaping the course of his life.



INBAL SIVAN

Montás is talking, of course, about the Core Curriculum, which he first encountered as an undergraduate in 1991. Montás was admitted to the College through a state program for students with "financial need and academic under-preparedness," and went on to earn a Ph.D. in English from GSAS. He was Core director from 2008 to 2018 and is currently a senior lecturer in American studies and English.

Montás is also a founder and director of the Freedom and Citizenship Program, a partnership between the Double Discovery Center and the Center for American Studies that teaches the foundations of Western political tradition to low-income high school students. The experience, he says, continually reinforces the relevance of liberal education to students today.

"Liberal arts education equips us to live the life of freedom," Montás told *CCT*. "It gives us the tools and perspectives that allow us to maximize our human potential. And it focuses on this condition of freedom, this fact that every individual has a kind of autonomy that permits us to organize our lives according to our own conception of 'the good.' That's a responsibility that every individual has to fulfill."

Rescuing Socrates is organized around meditations on four great thinkers: Saint Augustine, Plato, Sigmund Freud and Mahatma Gandhi. Montás dedicates a chapter to each, weaving discussion of their work with critique of contemporary liberal education and poignant personal reflection. The combination gives the book heft while keeping it accessible to a wider audience. (*The Wall Street Journal* notes its "warm, appealing narrative," while *Kirkus* called it "a vigorous argument in favor of reading and discussing the canon in order to better our minds and souls.")

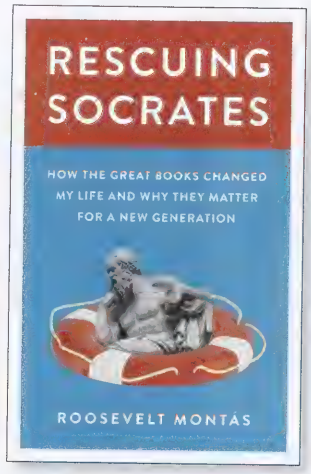
Montás's choice of authors was driven by their influence on his own intellectual development as well as how they have factored into his work as a teacher and

administrator. These figures may be canonical, but more importantly, he says, they are "famously introspective, committed to the project of self-knowledge. That makes them rich grounds upon which to elaborate and illustrate what the point of a liberal education is."

The excerpt here speaks to the allure of Socrates by way of his student Plato's dialogues, and it comes on the heels of the anecdote that gives the book title its layered meaning: As a high school sophomore, on a winter night too cold to linger, Montás found an improbable stack of hardcover classics left out for garbage pickup; he saved two, including Plato's account of the last days of his teacher's life. "It is a strange stroke of fortune that Socrates should be the figure to arise from that pile of books on the sidewalk, like a genie rubbed out of a lamp," he writes.

Asked about Socrates's significance, Montás observes that his uncompromising approach to the pursuit of truth offers "a set of values that transcend our lives." As for the Athenian's effect on his teenage self, Montás calls back to the dislocation of his youth — "of being not just an immigrant who didn't speak English, but also being poor, being from a rural mountain town and finding myself in New York City." He was also in the grip of a religious awakening. "I was in a sense looking for salvation, and I was reading [Socrates and Augustine] to find what in them was useful to understanding my own life. And that is characteristic of the liberal education approach — where we read books not just to learn about them, but also to learn from them."

— Alexis Boncy SOA'11



Chapter 2

The Examined Life: Socrates

The Socrates I rescued from a pile of trash is full of romance. How could my hungry teenage heart resist him? The three dialogues in the book span the period from his trial to his execution: The *Apology*, the *Crito*, and the *Phaedo*. The *Apology* records Socrates's defense of himself before an Athenian jury. He was brought to court, at age seventy, accused of corrupting the young and of introducing new gods to the city. He was found guilty and sentenced to death.

The next dialogue, the *Crito*, flows from the absurdity of the trial. Things got out of hand. No one could have possibly really wanted such an outcome. It would be ridiculous for Athens to put to death a seventy-year-old-man for engaging in the activity — annoying as it might be — that Socrates was engaged in. Socrates's old and wealthy friend, Crito, visits him in prison, having made arrangements for his escape. Athenian authorities seem embarrassed by what's happening and are ready to turn a blind eye if his friends were to arrange for Socrates to leave Athens. So Crito is there, with only a few days to go before the execution, ready to whisk Socrates away. But Socrates says, "No, I can't go." Then he argues that to run away would be to betray everything he has lived for and that his entire way of life demands that he accept the death sentence imposed lawfully by the city. It is a devastating argument that leaves Crito completely defeated. His last words in the dialogue are "I have nothing to say, Socrates."

The *Phaedo*, the last dialogue in the collection, purports to be a record of Socrates's last conversation, in which he argues, and claims to demonstrate, the immortality of the soul. The dialogue then ends with a heart-wrenching description of Socrates "calmly and easily" drinking the poison, lying down, and quietly dying: "Such was the end of our comrade," says Phaedo, "a man who, we would say, was of all we have known the best, and also the wisest and the most upright."

* * *

Socrates's defense is simple and plain. It paints a quintessential picture of a life devoted to the pursuit of truth and virtue — what he conceives as the philosophic life. His words to the jury come in three speeches. In the first, and longest, he defends himself against the charges brought against him. He fails at this, and the jury finds him guilty as charged. According to Athenian practice, after a guilty verdict, the jury would choose between a punishment proposed by the accuser and one proposed by the accused. Socrates's accusers propose death. The second speech of the *Apology* is Socrates's counterproposal. Initially, he suggests that he be given free meals at the city's expense, but then, at the urging of Plato and other rich friends, he agrees to a fine which they will pay for him, since he himself has no money. According to the ancient biographer Diogenes Laertius, the margin of the vote to condemn Socrates to death was larger than the one that found him guilty. His second speech, in other words, was an even bigger failure than his first. The third speech in the *Apology* records Socrates's admonition to the jury after its decision to have him executed.

Socrates's initial defense speech doesn't dazzle. At least, it didn't dazzle me. It didn't have the magnanimity and passion I expected from a man in his situation. I remember thinking it was sort of half-hearted; I wanted a heroic blast, a discharge of thunder. But at times, especially early on in the speech, Socrates seems whiny and a little conceited, complaining about popular depictions of him like the one in Aristophanes's play *The Clouds*, where he is viciously and hilariously mocked. His defense sometimes seems calculated precisely to turn off the jury. Such is the moment when he claims to be a "gadfly":

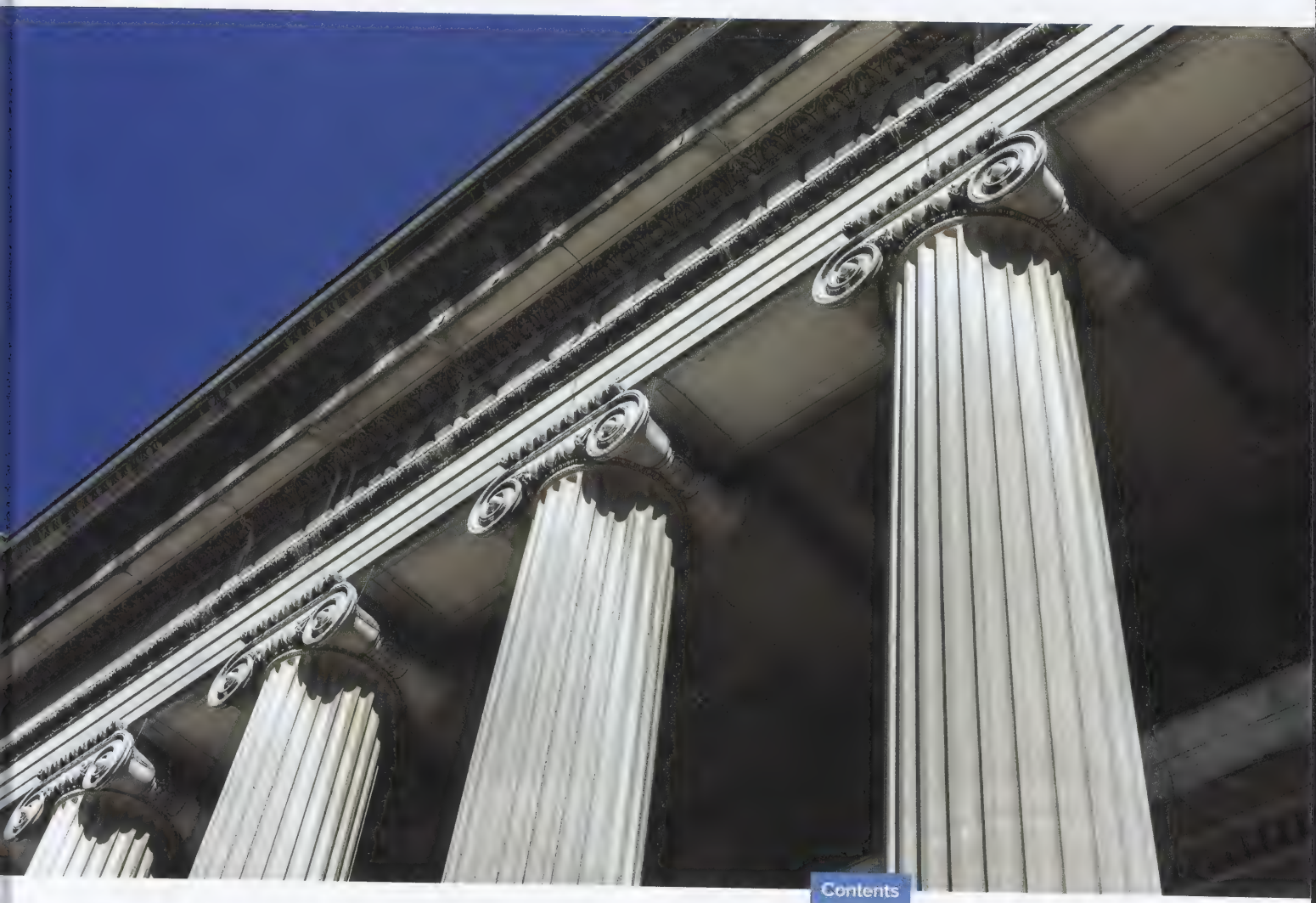
> Indeed, men of Athens, I am far from making a defense now on my own behalf, as might be thought, but on yours, to prevent you from wrongdoing by mistreating the god's gift to you by condemning me; for if you kill me you will not easily find another like me. I was attached to this city by the god — though it seems a ridiculous thing to say — as upon a great and noble horse which was somewhat sluggish because of its size and needed to be stirred up by a kind of gadfly. It is to fulfill some such function that I believe the god has placed me in the city. I never cease to rouse each and every one of you, to persuade and reproach you all day long and everywhere I find myself in your company.

Really? Doesn't Socrates see that this line of defense isn't going to help? That he sounds arrogant and presumptuous? It's as if Socrates has in view not the jury in front of him, but the intellectual tradition he would launch. It's as if he is looking past his fellow citizens to a lineage of dissident intellectuals and telling them, "Your business is to irritate authorities, to challenge the status quo, to ask embarrassing and obnoxious questions of those who claim a public mandate, and to be prepared to pay the ultimate cost for doing so." Compelling as this may sound now, it could not have landed well on the audience of the moment. Nor could it have been helpful to talk about a "divine sign," a "voice" that since childhood had spoken to him ordering him to abstain from doing certain things like entering politics.

Despite his questionable rhetorical choices, the overall impact of Socrates's self-defense is powerful. Its force comes upon you gradually, evenly, and you might not even notice it until it's too late to resist.

Excerpted from RESCUING SOCRATES: How the Great Books Changed My Life and Why They Matter for a New Generation by Roosevelt Montás. Copyright © 2021 by Princeton University Press. Reprinted by permission.

alumni news



ICONIC IONICS

Low Library's imposing portico features 10 limestone columns measuring 35 ft. high and 4 ft. in diameter. Designed in the Neoclassical style by Charles McKim of the McKim, Mead & White architectural firm, construction on Low was started in 1895 and completed in 1897.

JENNA BASCOM PHOTOGRAPHY

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How to Give Back in 2022

By Ted Schweitzer '91, LAW'94

In the '90s, when I first was making my way in the world, the last thing on my mind was giving back to Columbia. In fairness, I barely had enough to pay for my studio sublet, with its broken-down stove, which I refused to quit due to its magnificent if oblique view of the Empire State Building. I remember the pivotal moment when I became a giver: I had just attended my 10-year reunion. At my class dinner my college roommate, who fumbled through three prospective majors before landing on the pre-med track, announced that he had upped his annual giving because "it was time." He practically radiated with pride, and even joy. I wanted more of that in my life and decided to join him in support of alma mater. Later that night, as if to impel me to seal the deal, my fortune cookie from Hunan Cottage read "The Time Is Now."

Young alumni, please don't wait 10 years!

The Columbia College Alumni Association (CCAA) aims foremost to bridge generations of College alumni in the shared mission of supporting the College. Our fellowship brims with stellar volunteers — remarkable alumni of all ages who bring passion to their service.

Following is a brief overview of the CCAA's efforts, which are broadly divided between development (aka fundraising) and engagement.

CCAA volunteers support the development work of the Columbia College Fund team by conducting peer-to-peer solicitations, hosting stewardship events, and raising funds and awareness among the alumni community. Our VP is Raymond Yu '89, SEAS'90, and Jonathan Sobel '88 and Sherri Pancer Wolf '90 co-chair the College Fund. There are also multiple fundraising committees and means of participation, such as the Fund Development Council, co-chaired by David Javdan '90 and Scott Koonin '02; Class Agents, co-chaired by Jennifer Fudge Ryan '89 and Carlos Cuevas '05, SIPA'12, PH'12; and the Alumnae Legacy Circle, co-chaired by Kelley Buechel Badishkanian '98, BUS'08 and Diana Greenwald '11.



JENNA BASCOM PHOTOGRAPHY

The CCAA Board of Directors, along with Dean James J. Valentini and several Alumni Office staff members, met before Homecoming 2021.

On the alumni engagement side, we have six committees, overseen by Ben Cosgrove '90 and Stefanie Katz-Rothman '88:

- **Alumni Engagement,** co-chaired by Emily Miles Terry '89 and John Vincenti '90, focuses on enhancing the programs and experiences that help bring alumni together, particularly outside the Tri-State area.
- **The CC20/21 Task Force,** led by Rita Pietropinto-Kitt '93, SOA'96, was launched in response to the pandemic to provide extra support for the Classes of 2020 and 2021. This task force hosted special experiences for these young alums at Homecoming and organized alumni-hosted dinners in New York City and other regions for them.
- **Student/Alumni Journey,** chaired by Doug Horowitz '97, bolsters connections between students and alumni. This comes in many forms, such as mentoring and Senior Fund events.
- **Homecoming and Columbia Reunion,** co-chaired by David Donner Chait '07, BUS'13 and Chris Della Pietra '89, has carried these marquee events forward despite recent uncertainties. Homecoming 2021 was wildly successful and was the first large-scale, in-person event for alumni, parents, students and friends since the start of the pandemic. The committee is now focusing on reunion (Thursday, June 9–Sunday, June 12).
- **Mentoring,** co-chaired by Ganesh Betanabhatla '06 and David Seidman '06, supports the Odyssey Mentoring Program both online and through in-person events. This committee's goal is to offer mentorship to every College student, as well as provide a robust network of alumni-to-alumni mentorship.
- **Alumni Representative Committee,** co-chaired by Cliff Massey '10 and Diana Nasser '87, supports Undergraduate Admissions by having committee members interview College applicants. Its work expanded during the pandemic, with all interviews taking place virtually and a record number of applicants.

There are many other ways the CCAA builds community and fosters alumni interaction. I am especially proud to note that Columbia College Women is celebrating a milestone this year — its 35th anniversary!

In the spirit of Thanksgiving, during which season I pen this note, thank you to all who engage with the College. If you are on the fence, we implore you to join our ranks! Volunteer alongside classmates or donate to the College Fund. Even one hour a month or one gift can add an additional sense of purpose to your life, as you help the next generation of Columbians.

Please feel free to reach out with questions: tedschweitzer100@gmail.com. The time is now.





JÖRG MEYER

Publisher Namrata Tripathi '01 Is Helping Young Readers Make Sense of the World

By Elizabeth Segran '05

When **Namrata Tripathi '01**'s daughter was 4, she came home from the library and asked, "Mama, am I white?" The moment stuck with Tripathi. "I felt like I had failed my kid," she recalls. "I had raised her to be aware of her Indian heritage, but I realized I had not been explicit enough about race. So she had to go into the world without the language to talk about it." A few years later, Tripathi realized she could help other young children and their caregivers begin these challenging conversations.

In 2018, after more than 15 years working in the publishing industry, Tripathi founded Kokila, an imprint for young readers from Penguin Random House. One of her first decisions as publisher was to approach Ibram X. Kendi, author of the bestselling *How to Be an Antiracist*, about writing a board book for kids 3 and under; a few months later, *Antiracist Baby* was born. "If you claim to be color-blind, you deny what's in front of you," the book reads, alongside adorable drawings of babies. "We believe this conversation is appropriate and worth having, even with the youngest members of our society," says Tripathi. "This book gives parents a script."

In just two years, Tripathi has transformed Kokila into a powerhouse. Her team of seven has already produced two *New York Times* bestsellers (*Hair Love* and *Antiracist Baby*), a Newbery Honor winner (*The Night Diary*) and two National Book Award finalists (*The Legend of Auntie Po* and *Patron Saints of Nothing*). For Tripathi, creating a space to tell complex stories that help young people make sense of the world — and their place in it — is the most fulfilling work of her career.

Thanks to her parents' jobs as diplomats, Tripathi had a nomadic childhood, living in Afghanistan, India, Pakistan, Canada, Germany and Poland. She arrived in New York in 1997 to attend the College, where she studied English and considered pursuing a career in academia. When she asked Professor James Shapiro '77 and now-University Professor Gayatri Spivak for guidance, they suggested she take a gap year to explore other career paths. Tripathi followed their advice. In 2001 she took the Columbia Publishing Course, a six-week introduction to the book industry, and then landed a job as an editorial assistant at HarperCollins Children's Books. The work instantly resonated with her. "Children's books serve an essential purpose," she says. "In a picture book, a child is exposed to language, literature and fine art for the first time. It's like a primer on how to be a human."

For more than a decade, Tripathi explored many corners of young adult literature, editing everything from mass market books to award winners like John Corey Whaley's *Where Things Come Back*. But she also observed how representation in children's books could miss the

mark. "It would often be well-intentioned storytelling for white readers," she says. "There might be a white savior trope embedded in it, or a 'celebration' of culture that was very othering."

Four years ago, Penguin Random House approached Tripathi about being a publisher for one of its existing imprints; she came back to them with the idea for Kokila, which she had been dreaming about for most of her career. In her pitch, Tripathi told the head of the children's division that she was interested in doing more than just increasing representation; she wanted to create a space where top-notch writers, editors and art directors from diverse backgrounds would have a chance to do their best work. "I loved the idea of having the largest publisher in the world supporting this mission," she says. "Our scrappy group could exert influence on the House and on the industry. We could punch above our weight." Tripathi got the job.

Kokila has already made a name for itself with its nuanced, layered storytelling. The acclaimed *My Papi Has a Motorcycle,* for example, is about a father and daughter riding around town on a motorbike. But on a deeper level, the book is about gentrification — the girl's grandfather once worked in citrus groves in the area, but the lemon trees have been replaced by subdivisions. Her father is a contractor building those very houses, which they will never be able to afford. Still, the book ends on an optimistic note, with the father promising to take his daughter for another ride tomorrow. "In some ways, *My Papi* is about how a child recognizes that nothing is constant," Tripathi says. "But if you're lucky, the love of your family will carry you through change."

With Kokila, Tripathi has created a place where storytellers don't need to justify their identities or points of view. Instead, they tell the stories that are meaningful to them and invite the reader along for the ride.

Elizabeth Segran '05 *is a senior staff writer at* Fast Company *and the author of* The Rocket Years: How Your Twenties Launch the Rest of Your Life. *She lives in Boston with her CC'05 husband, whom she met freshman year; daughter; and books.*

A Meeting with Picasso Changed This Photographer's Life

By George Spencer

Fred Baldwin '56, a daredevil photojournalist with a passion for social justice, traces the course of his six-decade career to the moment that started it all — an in-person meeting with Pablo Picasso in July 1955.

Armed with a friend's Rolleiflex camera, Baldwin had laid siege to the artist's villa in the South of France, sleeping in his car for three nights outside the gates and hoping to be let in. Finally, after being repeatedly rebuffed, Baldwin wrote a letter that appealed to Picasso's sense of humor, and gained entry. He photographed the famed painter and came away with his life's mantra: Dream. Use your imagination. Overcome fear. Act.

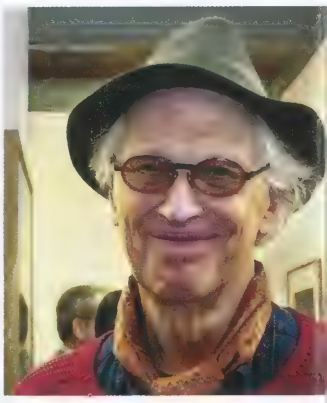
"That was the decisive lesson. Once I overcame that fear, I knew I could do anything I put my mind to," recalls Baldwin, whose 2019 autobiography takes its title from the experience: *Dear Mr. Picasso: An illustrated love affair with freedom.* (The book was recently released as an e-edition.) Today, at 92, Baldwin runs FotoFest, the acclaimed Houston-based international photography biennial he co-founded with his wife, Wendy, in 1983.

Baldwin's work began as a hobby while a Marine in the Korean War (he matriculated at the College after returning stateside). Despite his heroism — he was awarded two Purple Hearts — Baldwin confesses he had been a "spoiled, conflicted, confused" person until mustering the courage to meet Picasso.

His fear gone, he took charge of his life. In the late 1950s and early 1960s, he tracked polar bears, witnessed wild horse round-ups and went underwater to photograph marlin in the Pacific and cod in the Arctic Sea for publications such as *National Geographic, Sports Illustrated, Esquire* and *LIFE.*

His philosophy of taking great wildlife pictures was simple: "I wait for something that reveals something special to me, those peak moments that rise to the occasion, so that then I go 'click,'" he says.

But Baldwin, a Georgia native and son of an ambassador, felt something was wrong. "I was on a massive ego trip as a journalist. I was doing it for somebody else, not for myself," he recalls.



PHOTOS COURTESY FRED BALDWIN '56

A chance encounter with a Civil Rights march in Savannah in 1963 changed his life. For the next two years, he volunteered to photograph events for Hosea Williams, a member of Martin Luther King Jr.'s inner circle, for the *Chatham County Crusade for Voters* newspaper. "I found myself working in a spirit that drew on conditions that I had observed and experienced, but now I was surrendering my secret God-given white self-importance. That was new," he says.

Baldwin's life evolved further when he joined the Peace Corps. He supervised 180 volunteers in Sarawak (present-day Borneo), and traveled to India, Malaysia and Afghanistan to document volunteers' work there.

Back home, Baldwin focused his lens on poverty in rural Georgia and South Carolina, work that resulted in a $600,000 federal grant for a health clinic. He and his wife moved in 1971 to Texas, where they spent years living in a 13-ft. trailer for a photo/oral history project with the rural poor in two counties. The venture, funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, resulted in exhibitions at the Smithsonian and nearly a dozen other museums, and in the 1991 book *Coming to Terms: The German Hill Country of Texas.*



Baldwin adopted his life's mantra aftrer meeting Picasso in 1955: "Dream. Use your imagination. Overcome fear. Act."

Looking back on his life, Baldwin says, "I've learned from pain and success and failure. You have to take those things and figure out how to put them to work. Even at 92, every day I worry about finishing all the jobs I have," he says.

He recently became obsessed with a crumpled tube of toothpaste. "I kept trying to get one more drop out," he recalls. "I'd squeeze it and get a bit more. That's a symbol of what you have to do with your life — you've got to squeeze it until you get the last drop out."

[Editor's note: Baldwin died on December 15, 2021, as this issue went to press. An obituary will be published in the Spring/Summer 2022 issue.]

George Spencer *is the former executive editor of* Dartmouth Alumni Magazine. *He lives in Hillsborough, N.C.*

Dion Macellari '83 Makes Art for Hollywood Characters

By Rebecca Beyer

Scenic artist **Dion Macellari '83** was once hired to make bad art for the CBS comedy *The Unicorn,* and, when the showrunner complained that the piece was too well painted, Macellari returned to make it look worse.

On another occasion, for the Showtime dramedy *United States of Tara,* Macellari had to destroy a mural he created by carving an obscenity into it, just so the show's main character, played by Toni Collette, could pretend to do the same thing.

Working in Hollywood "keeps your ego in check," he says wryly.

Macellari didn't set out to be a Hollywood artist. In fact, he didn't want to be an artist at all. Raised by a sculptor father and an actress mother, he once hoped to be almost anything else.

"I didn't want to be like my dad," he recalls. "Then, when I got out of school, I realized I had no talent whatsoever — except art."

Macellari grew up in Greenwich Village and Tribeca; his father had a two-story loft in a building so run-down it had a sign to let first responders know people lived there. At the College, Macellari studied French language and literature, which he calls "the path of least resistance," because he had taken the language as a high school student. He also co-captained the lightweight crew and did illustrations for the College's humor magazine, *Jester.*



ANGEL DE JESUS SILVA

In 1987, Macellari finished a master's in painting from Hunter College. He planned to teach but instead took a job working on pharmaceutical advertisements. In 1991, he moved to Los Angeles and airbrushed record covers for Tower Records until he landed a gig making massive hand-painted theatrical backdrops for performers including Madonna, The Shins and Bon Jovi.

"It fell right in with what I could do really well, which is paint fast and realistically," he says. "If you have to [paint] 50 feet in three days, you can't overthink it. Or you can, but then you don't get any more work."

Macellari makes non-commercial art, too: He contributed mixed-media work to the book *Almost All Lies Are Pocket Size;* copies are owned by the de Young museum in San Francisco, The Museum of Modern Art in New York and the Victoria and Albert Museum in London.

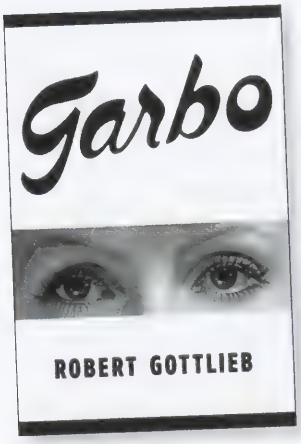
He says connections — and especially his membership in the Art Directors Guild — helped launch his Hollywood career, which has been going strong now for more than 15 years. He has worked on all kinds of television shows, including *New Girl* and *Dead to Me,* and the film *500 Days of Summer.* Macellari describes his work as "dark" and "creepy"; the characters he creates for are often troubled or brooding. To get into their mindsets, he receives advance copies of scripts and background notes on the parts he's helping bring to life. But he says he prefers less information, rather than more.

"If I think too much, I'm going to go off course," he says. "Whatever your first thought is [for a piece], that's probably the right one."

Rebecca Beyer *is a writer and editor living in Medford, Mass.*

bookshelf

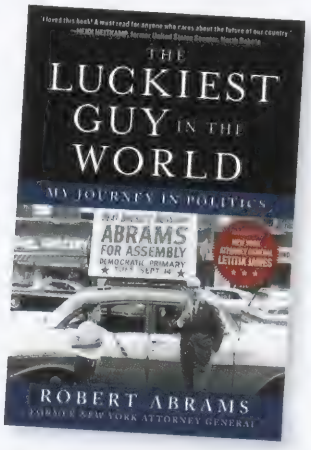
First Letters After Exile by Thomas Mann, Hannah Arendt, Ernst Bloch, and Others *by David Kettler '51 and Detlef Garz.* Letters between exiles from Nazi Germany and former colleagues and friends provide unique insights into the aspirations, hopes and fears of both sets of writers (Anthem Press, $40 Kindle edition).



Garbo *by Robert Gottlieb '52.* Legendary critic and editor Gottlieb examines the life and career of movie star Greta Garbo, and the culture that worshipped her (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, $40).

The Side of the Moon *by Dr. Irvin D. Milowe '53.* The second collection of poetry from Milowe, a psychiatrist, psychoanalyst and professor (independently published, $10).

The Brief and Glorious Reign of King Frederick the Brave *by Lewis Segal '56.* In this novel, an ordinary man is drawn into the 1956 uprising of the Hungarian people against oppression by the Soviet Union (Dorrance Publishing Co., $21.08).



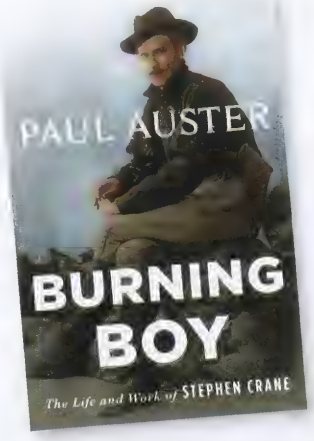
The Luckiest Guy in the World: My Journey in Politics *by Robert Abrams '60.* This political memoir from the former attorney general of New York State (1979–93) takes an optimistic view of our country's potential to return to its fundamental values (Skyhorse, $28).

Future Memories *by William Tannenbaum '60.* In this novel, three Jewish students escape Poland in 1940 and take refuge in Shanghai (Page Publishing, $15.95).

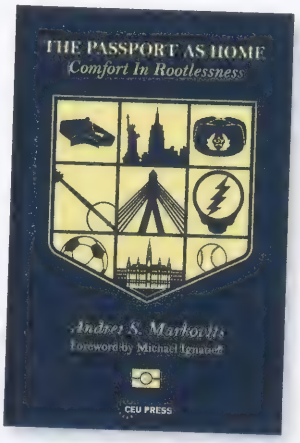
Laertes in America: Collected Poetry 2018–2020 *by Stephen M. Honig '63.* Honig's fourth book of poetry considers the struggling state of America, the tensions of modern life, the impact of nature and the search for self and for God (Stephen M. Honig, $14.95).

Death Tango: Ariel Sharon, Yasser Arafat, and Three Fateful Days in March *by Yossi Alpher '64.* Alpher analyzes the events of March 27–29, 2002 as being a catalyst of extensive change in the Middle East (Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, $36).

Empire of Ruins: American Culture, Photography, and the Spectacle of Destruction *by Miles Orvell '64.* An exploration of how photographers, writers, painters and filmmakers respond to ruin — abandoned factories, toxic landscapes, and devastation from fires, hurricanes and floods — in an effort to make sense of the past (Oxford University Press, $45).



Burning Boy: The Life and Work of Stephen Crane *by Paul Auster '69.* Auster describes how Crane, best known as the author of *The Red Badge of Courage,* transformed American literature with his short stories, novellas, poems and war reportage (Henry Holt and Co., $35).



The Passport as Home: Comfort In Rootlessness *by Andrei S. Markovits '69.* Markovits's memoir includes a chapter about the College, as well as a panorama of key events that shaped the second half of the 20th century (Central European University Press, $22.95).

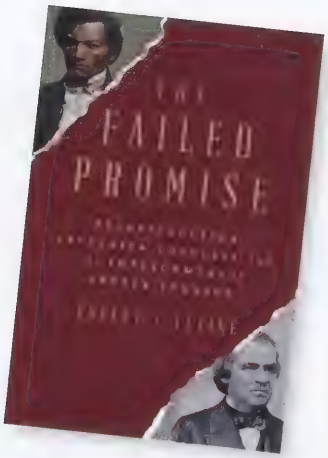
The Abalone Ukulele: A Tale of Far Eastern Intrigue *by R.L. Crossland '70.* In this historical maritime novel, Crossland, a former Navy SEAL officer, tells the story of four cultures colliding in 1913 Shanghai (New Academia Publishing/The Spring, $26).

Travels in Africa: A Year by Land Rover Through the Great Continent *by Fred Abramowitz '73.* Feeling that life was passing him by, in 1987 Abramowitz left his job as a lawyer and took off for the journey of a lifetime (Respondeo Books, $22.95).

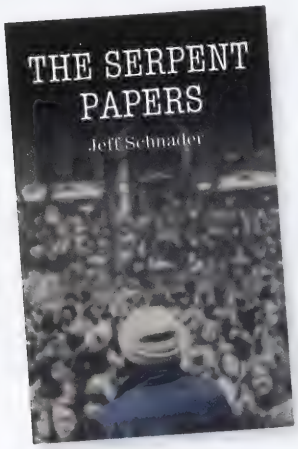
SUBMIT YOUR BOOK TO *CCT*

Alums! Have you written a book in the last year? Tell us about it!

college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_bookshelf



The Failed Promise: Reconstruction, Frederick Douglass, and the Impeachment of Andrew Johnson *by Robert S. Levine '75.* Levine, a Distinguished University Professor at the University of Maryland, reframes the history of Reconstruction by focusing on the radically different visions of Douglass and Johnson (W.W. Norton & Co., $26.95).



The Serpent Papers *by Jeff Schnader '75.* Schnader's first novel is set amidst the 1972 demonstrations at Columbia against the Vietnam War, and aims to heal the divide between those who fought and those who protested (The Permanent Press, $29.95).

In the Aftermath of Pandemic: Interpersonal Therapy for Anxiety, Depression, and PTSD *by Dr. John Markowitz '76.* This accessible treatment manual enables psychotherapists to use interpersonal psychotherapy to address the psychological consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic and other large-scale disasters (Oxford University Press, $29.95).

Windows on a War: The Korean War as Seen by Peter Koerner, USAF, 1950–1953 *by Mark Koerner '79.* In letters to his parents, Peter Koerner chronicles his journey from Portland, Ore., to Kadena AB on Okinawa (Mark Koerner, $15.95).

The New Ph.D.: How to Build a Better Graduate Education *by Leonard Cassuto '81 and Robert Weisbuch.* The authors argue that universities should prepare graduate students for career options other than academic positions (Johns Hopkins University Press, $32.95).

In the Founders' Footsteps: Landmarks of the American Revolution *by Adam Van Doren '84.* An illustrated tour of historical sites from the original 13 colonies (David R. Godine, $38).

Hope Valley: A Novel *by Haviva Ner-David '91.* Ner-David tells the story of two women, one Jewish-Israeli and one Palestinian-Israeli, who form an unlikely friendship (Bedazzled Ink Publishing Co., $16.41).

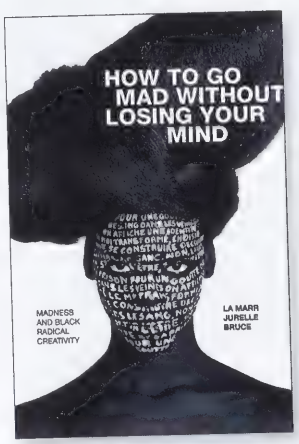
Titan of Tehran: From Jewish Ghetto to Corporate Colossus to Firing Squad — My Grandfather's Life *by Shahrzad Elghanayan '94.* The life of Habib Elghanian, the first civilian executed during Iran's 1979 revolution (Associated Press, $26.99).

A Good Mother: A Novel *by Lara Bazelon '96.* Bazelon's debut novel is a legal thriller about two young mothers and a shocking murder that puts them both on trial (Hanover Square Press, $16.99).

An Open Secret: The Family Story of Robert and John Gregg Allerton *by Nicholas Syrett '97.* How the man known as "the richest bachelor in Chicago" adopted his partner of nearly 40 years as his son — the first such adoption of an adult in Illinois history (University of Chicago Press, $17).

Many Points of Me *by Caroline Gertler '99.* Gertler's debut is about a sixth-grader's experience of friendship, family, grief and creativity (Greenwillow Books, $16.99).

Pipe Dreams: The Urgent Global Quest to Transform the Toilet *by Chelsea Wald '00.* Wald, an award-winning science journalist, describes a potential revolution in sanitation (Avid Readers Press/Simon & Schuster, $27).

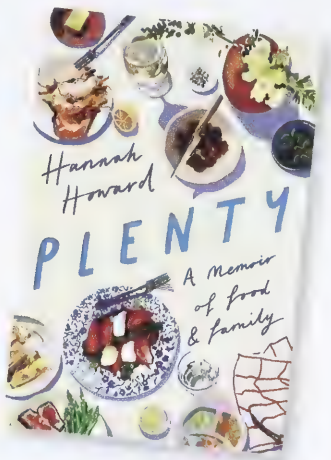


How to Go Mad without Losing Your Mind: Madness and Black Radical Creativity *by La Marr Jurelle Bruce '03.* Bruce theorizes the meaning of madness and explores the mad in literature, jazz, comedic performance and protest music (Duke University Press, $27.95).

Virulent Zones: Animal Disease and Global Health at China's Pandemic Epicenter *by Lyle Fearnley '05.* An account of the search for the origins of influenza pandemics in China and the global plans to stop the next pandemic at its source (Duke University Press, $26.95).

The Unfinished History of the Iran-Iraq War: Faith, Firepower, and Iran's Revolutionary Guards *by Annie Tracy Samuel '06.* An innovative history of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corp, and an analysis of the links between war and revolution (Cambridge University Press, $99.99).

If You, Then Me *by Yvonne Woon '06.* In this coming-of-age story set in Silicon Valley, a teen designs an artificial intelligence app to answer questions about her future self (Katherine Tegen Books, $17).



Plenty: A Memoir of Food & Family *by Hannah Howard '09.* Howard explores food as a point of passion and connection, and as a powerful way to create community (Little A, $24.95).

—Jill C. Shomer

classnotes



COLIN SULLIVAN '11

Winter is here! A dusting of snow blankets the campus, bringing a sense of serenity to College Walk.

1940s

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

Allen S. Brower '47, SEAS'48 reached out to *CCT*: "When on July 1, 1944, I stepped on campus as a pre-engineering student, I had no inkling that I would spend the next nine years at Columbia. By September 1945, due to the wartime acceleration and a Summer Transition term, I had completed the two pre-engineering years. Having learned about the Professional Option, or 3-2, I decided to remain in the College for the additional year and thus became a member of the Class of 1947. I have never regretted that decision. Two years in the Engineering School completed both the A.B. and B.S. degrees. I was appointed a graduate assistant as I began study for the MSEE degree and then instructor in electrical engineering for each of the following four years. My wife, a 1949 Barnard graduate, and I were married in the University Chapel the morning after her graduation. I began employment with the General Electric Co. in Schenectady, N.Y., in June 1953 and spent the next 36 years as engineer and engineering manager working with industry in both this country and abroad. Now in retirement for 32 years, we celebrated our 72nd wedding anniversary last year with our three children and seven grandchildren, all of whom live in the Capital District."

CCT and your classmates would enjoy hearing from you, too! You are welcome to share news of your career, retirement and/or family, as well as a favorite story or memory from your days on Morningside Heights, or news on how you have been faring during the pandemic.

Please send an email to cct@columbia.edu, or use the online Class Notes submission form, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note, and your thoughts will be shared in a future issue. Enjoy the winter!

1950

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

CCT was pleased to get a note from Dr. **Raymond Scalettar,** clinical professor emeritus of medicine at The George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences.

"You might be interested in what I have been doing for the past few years. I have been working with Doctors Against Forced Organ Harvesting. The first paragraph of Session 1 references my presentation at the World Summit (world summitcpfoh.info). I have also been a consultant for the compassionate release of prisoners and recently ended an eight-year tour as medical expert consultant to Social Security disability review.

"In other words, I am still here!"

CCT and your classmates would enjoy hearing from you, too. Share news of your career, retirement and/or family; a favorite story or memory from your days on Morningside Heights; or news on how you have been faring during the pandemic.

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1951

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

No news from classmates, but you can change that! *CCT* and your classmates would enjoy hearing from you. You are welcome to share news of your career, retirement and/or family, as well as a favorite story or memory from your days on Morningside Heights, or news on how you have been faring during the pandemic.

Please send an email to cct@columbia.edu, or use the online Class Notes submission form, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note, and your thoughts will be shared in a future issue. Happy New Year!

Class Notes are submitted by alumni and edited by volunteer class correspondents and the staff of CCT prior to publication. Opinions expressed are those of individual alumni and do not reflect the opinions of CCT, its class correspondents, the College or the University. By submitting to Class Notes, you acknowledge that the text is eligible to appear in print as well as on CCT Online and in archives.

1952

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

CCT reached out to the class in the fall and heard from four alumni — and we'd love to hear from more! Share your news and updates with us by email: cct@columbia.edu, or online via the Class Notes webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. Now, on to the notes.

Dr. **John R. Benfield,** professor of surgery emeritus at the David Geffen School of Medicine in Los Angeles writes: "Our grandson Cody Joshua Benfield '21's Columbia experience was excellent and stimulating, but not as good as that which we had. His classes had more students than we did, and the likes of Mark Van Doren GSAS 1920 and Lionel Trilling CC 1925, GSAS'38, who would teach us in groups of about 15 students, are now replaced by graduate students. I have called this negative change to the attention of the Columbia powers that be, but my remarks seemingly fell on deaf ears. So be it in higher education. It has become a business, similar to other businesses. Cody has become a happy New Yorker, now gainfully employed, and unlikely to return to live in California. His younger brother, Parker, is a freshman at the Parsons School of Design, and soon Mary Ann and I will have dinner with Cody and Parker in Soho — where else nowadays?

"I am fortunate still to be active after my 90th birthday, pontificating once a week in the medical school, and also teaching in Loyola Marymount University's excellent Jewish Studies program. As a result of the latter, I was invited to contribute a chapter that I titled 'Refuge, Adaptation and the Quest to Belong' to the textbook *Literature of Exile and Terror.* It was published in 2016, 78 years after my father, mother and I escaped from Vienna and the Holocaust. In our great United States, I have had opportunities and success that I believe exceed what I might have achieved in Austria.

"A significant part of my time is spent advising and guiding folks through our contorted healthcare system, which is dominated by for-profit insurance companies. We do indeed have the best health care in the world available to us, but I argue that the United States has the worst system among our peer nations. We are still the richest and most powerful among nations, and so we should have the best healthcare system. After 43 years of actively practicing and teaching surgery, and 23 years as emeritus professor, I am often asked for advice. I can tell you that the average American is often overwhelmed and not served as he or she should be.

"A sad note for me, and doubtless for all of us from the Class 1952 who are still around, is the relentless passing of compatriots and peers. Thank goodness for the young people around us, ready and able to succeed and to exceed us. May they be spared the wars that our generation has experienced."

Max Frankel GSAS'53 says: "I can only contribute some perspective: We graduated 70 years ago in a year that produced the election of Gen. Dwight Eisenhower as President. As a span of time, that is comparable to the distance between our arrival at college and the end of the presidency of Gen. Ulysses Grant.

"Seventy years is a very long time. Oh, to be 70 again!"

Dr. **Irvin Herman** writes: "Received a fundraising letter from CC and for some reason all day and even now running through my mind were snippets of 'Sans Souci,' 'Roar, Lion, Roar' and 'Who Owns New York?'

"Could have driven me a batty. So, I googled 'Columbia College songs' and found performances by the Kingsmen and a mixed chorus singing those good old college songs ... marvelous, but lacking the beery quality I remember from my college days.

"I write this Class Note as an aid to others of my vintage who might become nostalgic but can't remember all the words ... and probably can't carry a tune.

"Let's all Roar, Lion, Roar and echo up the Hudson Valley, or wherever."

Frank Dux also wrote: "This note is somewhat unusual, as it is neither an update on my life nor a memory from college days, but fitting I think as a contribution from a Columbian who finds himself well beyond the need or ability to exchange such

COLUMBIA SCHOOL DESIGNATIONS

BC	Barnard College
BUS	Columbia Business School
CP	Pharmaceutical Sciences
DM	College of Dental Medicine
GS	School of General Studies
GSAPP	Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation
GSAS	Graduate School of Arts and Sciences
HN	Institute of Human Nutrition
JRN	Graduate School of Journalism
JTS	Jewish Theological Seminary
LAW	Columbia Law School
LS	Library Service
NRS	School of Nursing
PH	Mailman School of Public Health
PS	College of Physicians and Surgeons
SEAS	The Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science
SIPA	School of International and Public Affairs
SOA	School of the Arts
SPS	School of Professional Studies
SW	School of Social Work
TC	Teachers College
UTS	Union Theological Seminary

everyday thoughts. I offer a short poem that says that which otherwise cannot be said."

Peeling an Apple

My old-man hands on the table
remind me
Of my grandmother's hands
As she would peel and cut an apple
Sitting on that X-frame chair
Under my father's portrait of
my mother.

I didn't then, but now I understand
Her need to peel and cut her apple,
As I now do the same with hands
that were
Always what they were going
to become.

1953

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

Mary Lou Lempert BC'54, TC'55 wrote on behalf of her husband, **Richard "Dick" Lempert** LAW'55: "For years Dick and I have looked forward to news of '53 in *CCT.* We met at the campus radio station (WKCR: The Voice of The Roaring Lion) in fall 1950. I was a DJ, and Dick was my engineer. He also was a Fiji, a Sachem and the treasurer of Blue Key. We both received graduate degrees from Columbia (an LL.B. for Dick, a master's for me at TC), and married in 1956, while Dick was in the Coast Guard. We have shared more than 70 wonderful years! Dick had a fortuitous service experience, stationed initially at Pier 9 in Manhattan, followed by a year as commander of a LORAN station in Alaska. His first legal experience was with an admiralty law firm in Manhattan. In 1959 American Airlines initiated an in-house legal department, and hired Dick (on referrals, I might add, from Columbia's Alumni Affairs Office!). For the next 27 years Dick was an officer at American, a senior VP, and for 15 of those years, the company's general counsel. A native New Yorker (born in Brooklyn, raised in Queens, educated in Manhattan), Dick, and Mary Lou and their children, Jeanne and Peter, lived in Douglaston, N.Y., where the whole family enjoyed sailing and racing on Long Island Sound, and where Dick was president of the Douglas Manor Association.

"As you might guess, the Lemperts all became world-class travelers, although their favorite destination always was a cabin at Lake George in the Adirondack Mountains. This idyllic life became dichotomous in 1979 when AA relocated its corporate headquarters to Texas. Neither the kids nor Mary Lou wanted to relinquish their enviable travel privileges, and Dick really liked his job, so they moved, to Dallas. Now, more than 40 years later, they still reside there although the political climate ensures that they remain 'damned Yankees'! However, that did not deter Dick from serving on the boards of the Dallas Symphony and the Dallas Chamber Music Associations.

"Retiring from AA in 1989, Dick continued his legal career as a shareholder in the Dallas law firm Johnson & Gibbs, and as principal and managing director of McKool Smith. Retired in 2006, Dick enjoyed a rather engaging lifestyle, with more time at the cabin in upstate New York, and considerable world traveling. This charmed existence has been marred of late by a diagnosis of Parkinson's, the manifestations of which only became onerous in the last several years. An avid and combative tennis player, Dick enjoyed exercising and running marathons. Thus, he has been particularly affected by the physical ravages of his neurological condition. He does not manifest the characteristic tremor but over a period of some six years he has gradually lost a great deal of motor control, for which we have pursued rehabilitation. Presently he is a patient in an assisted living residence that provides excellent medical care, the best we could find.

"We looked forward to Homecoming 2021 ('Go, Lions!') although we could not attend. But, we are pleased that our granddaughter Claire Lempert BC'23 did get to the big game and some weekend festivities, in the company of 'a male friend from the College.' Can history be repeating itself? We certainly hope so!"

Dr. **Arthur Elkind** writes: "I have a short memory and story! My memory of my last semester at Columbia College in 1953 was quite important. My wife, Arlene Ruth, and I traveled by the IRT from the Bronx, Pelham Parkway, to the Pupin physics building (with its astronomy telescope at the roof); early evening classes weekly in astronomy. The professor allowed her to join in the course. I put a telescope together at home to enjoy studying the celestial sky. It worked! We read *The Realm of the Nebulae* by Edwin Hubble. Arlene was an art student at NYU, which led us to The Frick Collection and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. The combination of art history and astronomy was valuable then and still is now."

Angel I. Ferrer checked in: "I am 89, and quite decrepit. I was remembering fall 1951 and meeting Christa Michel from Barnard. Miss Michel's father was ambassador to the UN from Austria.

"I had the pleasure of giving Miss Michel a tour of New York City that included the Statue of Liberty, the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the top of the Empire State building.

"I could walk then and we walked everywhere, even going on foot from Columbus Circle to her father's office at the UN."

Saul Elkin Ph.D. SOA'63 notes: "Retired from SUNY Buffalo as distinguished professor of theatre. Am the founder and artistic director of Shakespeare in Delaware Park, now in its 47th season. Also the founder and artistic director of the Jewish Repertory Theatre, now in its 19th season. Pushing 90 and still very active."

We'd love to hear from you, too! Share your news and updates with *CCT* by email: cct@columbia.edu, or online via the Class Notes webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

Stay in Touch

Let us know if you have a new postal or email address, a new phone number or even a new name: **college.columbia.edu/alumni/connect.**

1954

Bernd Brecher
brecherservices@aol.com

Not so long ago — just seems like it, really — a new class (ours) was admitted to Columbia College: 600-plus eager freshmen, all wearing light blue beanies (I'm guessing), most of us graduating four years later (remember those days?) to "go out and conquer the world." We didn't do badly at all; matter of fact, we did great! Medicine, law, fiction, autobiography, research, teaching, business, public service, philanthropy, diplomacy, government, computer programming, engineering, journalism, and more. Today, as I prepare these Class Notes for a 2022 issue — the 50th anniversary of the NYC Marathon is being celebrated — we are a bit more diminished in membership, with only 128 email addresses remaining on our list. Still, with all of us in or entering our 10th decade, and many even making plans for the next 10 years, we are fortunate indeed. So-o-o-o-o, welcome once again to this column, and keep writing, calling, complaining, suggesting, and questioning to keep me sharp. Remember, we are still the Bicentennial Class of Destiny!

Note that an occasional complaint I get — although I vet, edit, and sometimes cut every item that is sent in — is that some classmates are frequently covered while others might not be at all. Some of the latter, of course, have never submitted any news of any kind. And I'm getting too cranky to keep chasing each of you for a hot new scoop, fun as that has usually been.

While Dean Lawrence H. Chamberlain GSAS'45, a Midwesterner, a gentleman, and a *mensch,* who reminded us during Freshman Week that he likewise was a frosh, will always be "my" dean and who retired as a VP of Columbia, be aware that Dean James J. Valentini, a regular guest and speaker at our five-year reunions, will leave the deanship on June 30 after a decade of service. We wish him well as he continues in his professorial position. At the same time, Steve Coll, also after a decade, will leave the deanship of my other Columbia degree-granting school, the Graduate School of Journalism. Change is constant, even during Covid-19 lockdown.

Our double-threat classmate Dr. **Edward Raab** — M.D. and J.D. — continues his hospital-based practice of pediatric ophthalmology at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York. Without taking time out, he earned a law degree from Fordham in 1994 but does not practice law. He is a certified arbitrator in the New York City Civil Court - Small Claims Part, and "tries to educate colleagues about medicolegal matters," an area in which he is frequently called upon as an expert witness.

"What I find remarkable," he says, "is the ingenuity asserted by people about coping with the defense against Covid-19 and how vital is the needed compliance with the limitations and requirements of life during the pandemic."

Dr. **Larry Scharer** PS'58 trained at Bellevue, where he became interested in pulmonary diseases, interrupted by a two-year tour of Army duty and then further training at UC San Francisco, returning to Bellevue for more pulmonary disease training. He entered private practice in 1965, with an academic appointment at Columbia, followed by several years at Roosevelt Hospital, now called Mount Sinai West, where he is visiting professor of medicine at The Icahn School of Medicine.

"The World Trade Center disaster has been a big boon to the medical community," Larry writes, "and there is now a full industry to pay for the care of victims of the disaster. Because of my interest in pulmonary diseases, I have been able to leave private practice and spend time working on medical boards to judge disability for city workers (mostly firefighters and police officers). We don't treat anyone but if they were permanently injured by the disaster they are entitled to significant retirement benefits, which continue to their families if they die from WTC conditions. Many of the people we see claim disability but the medical board (three physicians including me) makes a recommendation to a pension board based on the records and interviewing and examining the applicant, which is often not favorable. It is hard work but pays well enough to keep me busy without running a private practice."

Larry and his wife, Linda, live in NYC, on the East Side. They have two children and six grandchildren, "all involved in different things." One granddaughter is a senior in medical school and has expressed an interest in pulmonary/critical care. "We shall see!" says granddad. Any classmates want to take a bet? We assume Larry is giving good odds.

"New" responder **Alfred Grayzel** SEAS'55 retired at 60 from MIT to his house on Lake Sunapee, N.H., but in 2000 decided he would rather be skiing in Utah and relocated to the Salt Lake City area, meeting his wife that year at the Alta Ski Area. At 88 he still skis but because of the altitude does it with an oxygen machine in his backpack.

Alfred Grayzel '54, SEAS'55 relocated to the Salt Lake City area; at 88 he still skis, with an oxygen machine in his backpack.

Al writes, "I continue to do my own independent R&D; theoretical work and computer simulation. I have received three patents in the last four years on microwave circuits and published numerous papers on field-effect transistors (google me)."

Al has three children and five grandchildren; the oldest is an independent videographer, currently filming the Indigenous population in Canada (google Ben Grayzel).

Just before the pandemic Al and his wife took a cruise from Moscow to St. Petersburg arranged by fraternity brother **Arnie Tolkin.** They saw the opera at the Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow and the ballet at the Mariinsky Theatre in St. Petersburg.

Al was deeply saddened "to hear of the passing of my fraternity brother **Bob Weber** SEAS'55, SEAS'56. Bob and I were classmates at Midwood H.S., Columbia College and Columbia Engineering. We stayed in touch over the years, and he will be missed."

Our "regular" correspondent **Arnie Tolkin,** likewise a College roommate of **Bob Weber**'s, reflects on "having been another tough year so far as I lost my college roommate, Bob." Still, he also alerted us to a happy prediction, the soon-to-be arrival of a 13th great-grandchild. Columbia College, here they come!

Our man in Washington, D.C., **David Bardin** LAW'56, continues his committed personal government watchdog responsibilities; on October 28 he was one of four members of the public who addressed Secretary of Energy Jennifer M. Granholm and her team during the first meeting of the Secretary of Energy Advisory Board.

David's oral remarks and previously written submittal focused on America's limited and shrunken capacity to manufacture essential items for electric power grids, such as large power transformers, in the United States; impediments to expanding domestic manufacturing; and concerns about the experience and assertions of manufacturers in three states.

David believes that the U.S. Department of Energy should assure that a repository of pertinent information is at hand to guide policymakers in the Executive and Legislative Branches. He writes, "DOE should learn and have published information about ways to reduce dependence of USA electric power grids on critical equipment that has been increasingly imported from such 'offshore' suppliers as the People's Republic of China, where wage scales and environmental regulatory costs might be much lower than in the USA. I am also concerned by reports of PRC manufacturers that insist maintenance of equipment they manufacture be performed only by engineers sent from China, to the exclusion of American engineers."

Thanks, David, for your passion, truth-telling, history lessons, commitment to facts, belief in democracy … what are you doing in Washington?

I'll sign off with the promise to share some news about yours truly in the next column, but I close herewith with reference to an article from the archives of *The New York Times,* summarized on November 9, 2021, in the "A Headline in History" section, indeed a history lesson for today.

"COUP STARTS IN BEER HALL"

"**November 9, 1923.** 'Berlin was startled late last night by news from Munich that the Von Knilling Government had been overthrown by the Hitlerites,' The Times reported. Adolf Hitler, Erich Ludendorff and armed Brownshirts stormed the Burgerbraukeller, a beer hall; imprisoned Bavarian government officials there; and declared a national revolution. Their coup attempt quickly unraveled, and in another article published on Nov. 10, The Times reported that Ludendorff and Hitler had been 'thoroughly discredited.' By 1933, the Nazi party established a foothold in the parliament and Hitler was named chancellor, a position he used to eventually seize control of the German government."

Read and heed, folks, indeed a dog-eared playbook being referred to in our country today.

Please stay in touch — write, call, email, text — however and any way you like so we can in this column all share your news, good and any not so, with our classmates.

If you sent me something but don't see it here, it's likely because of the technological problems I've been having during the pandemic. Please resend it to brecherservices@aol.com. And if you're not getting my emails, it's because the Alumni Office does not have a valid email address for you. If you want to be included, or ensure that you are already included, send it to cct@columbia.edu, or use the online submission form: college.columbia.edu/cct/update_contact_info.

Be well, be good, do good, hug your loved ones, help your neighbors, always help heal the world, with luv, Bernd. EXCELSIOR!

1955

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

[Editor's note: After 40 years as class correspondent, **Gerald Sherwin** has stepped down. *CCT* is grateful to Jerry for his devotion, dedication and endless Columbia spirit! Going forward, please submit news to *CCT* by email: cct@columbia.edu, or online: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.]

CCT was pleased to hear from eight class members this past fall!

Herbert S. Gardner writes: "How do you define 'retired'? Hard to do inasmuch as 2021 marked the fact



Attending the Class of 1956 luncheon on September 14 at the Bonnie Briar Country Club in Larchmont, N.Y., were, left to right (seated) Dan Link '56, Jack Katz '56, Stephen Easton '56 and Al Franco SEAS'56; (middle row): Elinor Baller, Barbara Fine, Margo Siroty and Beverly Fischer; and (back row) Jerry Fine '56, Bob Siroty '56, Alan Broadwin '56, Paul Bergins '56, Bob Touloukian '56 and Bill Fischer '56.

that I have been retired for the same number of years that I was employed! On the contrary, I have been super busy over these last 33 years.

"To wit: after leaving the NYC school system as director of music, I chaired the education department at the Manhattan School of Music, Five Towns College and The Hebrew Arts Society. Now, as an official snowbird, I have been mentoring teachers in Palm Beach County, Fla., Elizabeth, N.J., and Rockland County, N.Y.

"But wait, there's more! I have been conducting local orchestras north and south, currently The Baroque Ensemble of The Palm Beaches, and writing a host of music teaching materials for students at every level. Most importantly, I am enjoying my 63rd year of marriage to my college sweetheart, Jane Were-Bey Gardner BC'55.

"Still can't define 'retired.' Hope all of my CC'55 classmates are doing great things and keeping healthy.

"You, too, Elliot!"

Dr. **Myron B. "Mike" Liptzin** shares: "Happily retired psychiatrist enjoying life in Chapel Hill and summers in Boone with my wife, Anne, except the pandemic has seriously impacted our ability to travel, and to see kids and grandkids.

"**Milt Finegold** is the only classmate I have kept up with, plus two senior TEP email pen pals. I am thrilled to learn how The Kingsmen have expanded their world horizons. I sing in two groups locally, and as before, always conscripted to sing/approximate 'tenor' due to a dearth of real tenors. As we say in the South, stay well, and 'Y'all come and see me!'"

Welcome to **Stanley Corngold,** who writes: "Although I received my degree in 1957, after two tears of Army service, I properly belong to the Class of 1955."

He submitted his first Class Note: "Stanley retired from Princeton University in 2009, after teaching German and comparative literature for 43 years. He was also adjunct professor of law at the Law School 2006–09. He is the author of many books, several of which deal with the work of Franz Kafka. Two books are due out in February 2022: *The Mind in Exile: Thomas Mann in Princeton* and *Weimar in Princeton: Thomas Mann and the Kahler Circle.* For more biography, see complit.princeton.edu/people/stanley-corngold."

George Raitt SEAS'56 says: "Don't have much to add! Both my roommates, **Jack Freeman** SEAS'55 and **Don Schappert,** have passed away. Still communicate with Dale Granger '56."

We heard from Dr. **Albert E. Sacknoff:** "Two weeks after graduating from the College I married my wife, Joyce. I graduated from SUNY Downstate Medical School in 1959. We moved to the New York area, where I practiced medicine for more than 40 years. Through the years we were blessed with three children and eight grandchildren. We reside in a gated community in Plainview, N.Y."

Also checking in is Dr. **Howard Lieberman:** "While I maintain my medical license, I have stopped doing neurosurgery, and spend my spare time writing poetry. I recently had a volume printed (now that I have it I am not really sure what to do with these volumes), *Conversations with My Dog, and Other Attempts at Communication.* I'll give you an example:

Livingston Hall

I remember when the phono played:
That was prior to its categorical
demise, its frivolously mutated
replacements,
those records that twirled, those
dervish relationships,
scratching all the way from
Beethoven to Schoenberg?
They were ennobling times, and we
were its pages, infatuated
academics,
each day its significance emblazoned,
its yesterday's
loves well lived though soon forgot,
time-bagged time-blown, hot-air
balloons out windows
onto the street below;
all that was ephemeral, but
unforgettable, like cherry blossoms
in the park.

So evenings went;
never ever a loss,
never an admission, not even a
feeling of exhaustion,
we were like sub-atomic particles,
leptons,
attracted briefly, as in some
super-collider, then scattered,
sentinels to the four corners.
Now the phone does not ring,
but I can still hear their voices,
the exhilaration it recalls.

Dr. **Charles Solomon** DM'58 wrote, too: "Continued to teach at the Dental School through the pandemic. Rode out the storm in Hampton Bays, in a small cottage on Peconic Bay. Back in NYC now, regularly seeing **Mort Rennert** DM'67 and **Bob Schiff** DM'58."

William Kronick wraps up the column: "Still trucking along on novel (seventh) while watching weather-caused catastrophes everywhere but here in sunny Los Angeles — so far. Try to give moral support to son, Max, not yet 30, whose trajectory in the film biz hasn't been helped by the pandemic Best wishes to all."

1956

Robert Siroty
rrs76@columbia.edu

Fred Baldwin wrote that an e-book version of his 2019 autobiography was recently published. Fred died on December 15, 2021. [Editor's note: See "Lions."]

Dan Link's country club was the scene for a CC'56 luncheon on August 19. Present were **Bob Siroty, Bob Toloukian** PS'60 (all the way from Woodbridge, Conn.), **Stephen Easton** (from North Carolina), **Jerry Fine, Alan Broadwin, Jack Katz, Bill Fischer, Al Franco SEAS'56** and **Paul Bergins,** along with four wonderful guests. A great time discussing old and new, and recognizing that 69 years ago we were preparing for Freshman Week. See the nearby photo!

A story ran in *The Middlebury [College] Campus* about its long-standing carillonneur, **George Matthew Jr.,** who has been playing the bells since 1986, and has no inclination to give up the arduous climb to the stairs of the chapel. After graduation, he practiced chemistry for 15 years, then reverted to his true love, music. "I have no intension of stopping!" he says.

Have received word of the passing of **Stanley Kling** GSAS'59, with the note of "how much his time at Columbia and the city were formative for him, and he carried good memories."

A note for those of you reading this but not getting my emails: It is because we do not have your current email address. If you are interested, please send it to the Alumni Office (online: college.columbia.edu/cct/update_contact_info, or email: cct@columbia.edu) and to me.

1957

REUNION 2022
JUNE 9–12
Reunion Contact
ccreunion@columbia.edu
Development Contact
ccfund@columbia.edu

Herman Levy
hdlleditor@aol.com

Dr. **Alan Brown:** "I believe few members of our class will remember me. I chose to live off-campus in a

dark tenement room on West 118th Street, off Amsterdam, leaving it only to get the occasional meal at the Columbian on the corner and to go to classes and labs. I left after my third year to go to Vanderbilt Medical School, using the professional option available to us then and avoiding the dreaded MCAT, but returning for Commencement. I will always be grateful to Dr. **Erich Gruen**, who made a determined effort to get me to lead a semi-normal life during my Columbia years. That it was unsuccessful was/is on me.

"After graduation from Vanderbilt I interned at Vanderbilt University Medical Hospital, and then, after a stint at the Bronx VA, did a residency in neurology at Albert Einstein College of Medicine/Jacobi Medical Center, where I met my wife, Elinor, who was a medical student at Einstein. In Yonkers I was the chief of neurology for 25 years at four competing hospitals, aided by the fact that I was the only neurologist for many years. (Yonkers was a wasteland.) I retired in 2002.

"I have lived since then in Lincoln Square and do the usual Manhattan things. Elinor, also a physician, worked with the disabled. She passed away in March 2019. I am now in a relationship with someone, also widowed, whom I knew prior to meeting Elinor.

"I have formed a close friendship with **Martin Brothers**, whom I met at one of our '57 luncheons hosted by **Ed Weinstein**. We regularly torment each other with political differences (the usual ones). I continue to travel (London, Florida and the east end of Long Island, stopping off to visit my home in Jamaica, Queens). I have three children, all Ivy graduates but no Columbians, and six grandchildren, but no pets. I'll try to make the next reunion if Covid-19 and fate permit."

Dr. **Stanley Cohen** PS'61: "I haven't sent anything for Class Notes in quite a while, but here is some up-to-date stuff.

"After a long career in immunology and pathology and after two retirements, I've switched to the burgeoning field of artificial intelligence. Along the way, I won an AAAS 'Golden Goose Award' for the discovery of cytokines. The award sounds like a gag, but it's for federally funded work that sounded silly at first but that led to breakthroughs having an impact on society. What was silly about it was that I found the first one looking into chick eggs rather than the immune system.

"I'm active on various advisory boards and professional societies related to artificial intelligence in medicine and halfway through a textbook on artificial intelligence in pathology, based on an earlier monograph. My favorite memory of College life was meeting my future wife, Marion BC'60, on the steps of Low Library under the approving gaze of the bronze statue *Alma Mater.* Now, more than 60 years later, we have three children (all of whom are in the family business, academic medicine) and nine grandchildren, most of whom are not. Marion and I live in Haverford, Pa., and the kids are scattered all over."

Ron Kushner: "Reading our classmates' reminisces, accomplishments and obituaries in *CCT* reminds me that we're at that stage of life where many of us look back in an attempt to make sense of the arcs of our lives. Some of my friends are writing memoirs as a way of doing this and leaving a mark that will help people to remember them.

"My old friend **Erich Gruen**'s contribution in the Fall 2021 issue points to the enormously successful and respected career he has had as a historian. Remembering Erich from our college days, I'm sure that his reputation is well deserved. There are many such stories from members of our class — professional or other lives filled with significant accomplishments and deserved recognition.

"My own journey was of a different sort. I had two different 'careers' (one in computers and organizational information systems and the other as a psychotherapist and director of a mental health clinic) that I worked at with varying degrees of success; lack of success and fulfillment; and frustration. However, I never really felt that I had a career in the sense that I worked at something that my identity was wrapped up in and that fully engaged my intellectual and emotional resources. They were a way of making a living. Don't get me wrong. It is not that I was indifferent to the job that I was doing — I always tried to do the various jobs I had with focus, energy, integrity and reasonably high standards — but I didn't feel that they defined my identity. I didn't have the passionate drive to achieve and succeed that I believe many others in our class had.

"I consider myself one of the lucky ones. I was born at a time and in a place that, coupled with an upbringing that valued the mind and provided what I think of as a humane ethical framework, shaped the course of my life. I believe that most, if not all, of our classmates are similarly lucky. We came of age in a time of peace, in an expanding economy that gave us choices and opportunities and that enabled the bulk of us to live lives free of want and with some degree of comfort and fulfillment, as technological innovations were introduced at a dizzying pace that helped make our lives easier.

"I have been blessed with reasonably good health, a loving marriage partner, and children and friends with whom I live in a climate of mutual love, affection and respect. My retirement years yield enough income for my wife and me to live comfortably without feeling deprived in any way and I'm engaged in activities, for example, learning to play jazz piano, that I feel passionate about that engage me in many ways and give me a purpose in daily life.

"If there is something my identity and my energies are wrapped up in, it's a striving to become a *mensch.* It's a goal I'll probably never reach, but it's a goal worth pursuing."

Carlos Muñoz: "Having received our vaccinations and booster shots, my wife, Kassie, and I are looking forward to resuming an active travel schedule, starting with a North American Bridge Championship in Austin, Texas, this past November, and continuing with a Caribbean cruise in February and a Reno tournament in March. The pandemic forced us to cancel a Mediterranean cruise planned to celebrate our 20th anniversary last summer, a meeting in London last November and bridge tournaments in Columbus, Montreal, Tampa, St. Louis and Providence during the past 18 months.

"I was able to attend the first face-to-face Columbia College Board of Visitors meeting on campus in early October, where we celebrated the return of students to full campus residency, while lamenting the upcoming departure of Dean James J. Valentini at the end of this academic year. I'm hoping to see as many classmates as possible at our 65th reunion this year."

Donald K. Larsen: "Can you recall the turning point of your life?

"Mine was attending McDonogh School, a boys' military school in Baltimore.

"In my early years, my single mother boarded me on farms and at an orphanage, and I attended Detroit public schools for a year. During my seven years at McDonogh (I repeated third grade), I was taught self-discipline, truthfulness (at any cost), sportsmanship, the concept of leadership as an article of faith, honor and 'We give something more than we take.' The basic teaching concept was that every boy was to be treated as though he were the only one in school. McDonogh led to an NROTC scholarship to Columbia. And I met my wife, Marjory, now of 64 years, in December of my freshman year. She was a student at St. Luke's Hospital and was a blind date for Dean's Drag.

"Arriving in New York by train from Detroit and at the Columbia campus by taxicab was traumatic. My roommates, **Mike Chapman** and **Marty Fisher,** helped me acclimate, and I soon was involved in ADP, Van Am Society, NROTC Guide and, oh yes, attending classes. A few highlights of my Columbia years include Van Am Society (president in junior year), Senior Society of Sachems and executive officer of the NROTC unit. I got a C in physics in my senior year, having failed it in my junior year. I took 42 credit hours to graduate in my senior year, experiencing 'critical thinking' and a teaching staff second to none.

"Following three successful years of Navy shipboard duty, I began an aluminum industry career, joining Alcoa in June 1960, as the national administrator for its aluminum telephone booth business. Remember those? Through 13 moves, including those in the Navy and one 'move up' in value, three Alcoa moves in seven years, followed by four years in Chicago with Howmet Aerospace (a small producer) and finally moving to St. Louis in 1971 to be a part of Phelps Dodge Aluminum Products Corporation (then just starting), I was

regional sales manager, covering all products for one third of the country.

"After several years of accumulating and starting aluminum-producing divisions, I was assigned to the wire division. Through various acquisitions, Aluminum Pechiney bought Phelps Dodge Aluminum and renamed it Consolidated Aluminum. My division was sold and the new owner resold it, and I found myself president and part owner of Nichols Wire. We earned a top reputation in our field here and in Europe. For example, we were sole supplier to Lipton Tea for its teabag staple wire, and our wire was used for 90 percent of the rivets used by the Boeing Co.

"I retired in 1998 and found purpose volunteering at the St. Louis Science Center and the Missouri Historical Museum. Also, I tutored elementary school [children] for 21 years."

"Marjory and I have four daughters, 10 grandchildren, four great-grandchildren and more on the way, and continue to live in the home we built on St. Louis County farmland in 1971.

"I invite all classmates to get in touch with me. My email address is dklmcl@aol.com."

1958

Peter Cohn
petercohn1939@gmail.com

It is late October 2021 and it is gratifying to finally see a decline in Covid-19 hospitalizations and deaths after the latest surge in Covid cases due to the Delta variant. Assuming the vaccination rates (I hope) continue to increase as the various mandates come into effect across the country, maybe 2022 will really see a return to "normalcy." Seeing large numbers of people again dining indoors and going to indoor cultural and sports events would be a nice development for the new year.

Following Columbia football this season has been fun. The team has been playing well, with the offense showing a balanced run and passing attack and the defense likewise doing an excellent job. As I write this, the team is 4–1 after another successful Homecoming game, marking the fourth such victory in Al Bagnoli's six years of coaching the Lions. For those of us who enjoy a visit to the Baker Athletics Complex in the fall, we hope the second half of the season is as enjoyable as the first half was!

I don't know of anyone in our class who has a military record to equal that of **Bob Orkand.** He has provided *CCT* with a summary of his activities to coincide with the October publication of his first novel, *The Spandau Complication.* The book is a Cold War thriller set in Berlin in the mid 1960s, where Bob served on the staff of the U.S. Commander Berlin. Bob was drafted into the army during his senior year, 1953–54 (he was originally in the Class of 1954). He went to Officer Candidate School and then served 16 months in Korea with the 17th Infantry Regiment. He reenlisted, and a temporary duty assignment to New York in 1958 allowed him to return to Columbia and graduate with our class. After a second tour in Korea he was sent to Vietnam, where he was both operations and executive officer of the 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry, 1st Air Cavalry Division. Post-Vietnam, Bob attended the Command and General Staff College. He subsequently published a book on Vietnam combat experiences. In the 1970s Bob became the executive officer of the 197th Infantry Brigade at Fort Benning, Ga., the prototypical volunteer army unit. He became a spokesman for the secretary of the army for the volunteer army project. In retirement, he joined Knight Ridder newspapers in a series of senior management positions around the USA.

Bob and his wife, Belinda, live in Hunstville, Texas, where they work with offenders at a Huntsville prison unit as volunteers for the Bridges to Life rehabilitation program.

Quite a career, indeed!

Unfortunately, there is a death to report. Just before this issue went to press, we learned from Anita Orlin BC'61 that **Howard Orlin** BUS'59 had passed away. Howie fought the effects of multiple sclerosis for 40 years, and thanks to Anita, a wonderful wife and caregiver, managed to live a meaningful and productive life for many of those years, even when confined to a wheelchair. Howie was an accountant with expertise in international tax law, a mentor to those just entering the field, a terrific family man and a proud member of the Columbia community. Always with a smile on his face at our reunions, no matter what the circumstances of his medical condition, he will be sorely missed. Our condolences go out to his wife and family.

1959

Norman Gelfand
nmgc59@hotmail.com

I hope that this finds you well and ready for winter.

Joseph Ramos Quiñones SEAS'60, SIPA'64, GSAS'68 reports, "In January 2021 I was chosen Economist of the Year by my peers in Chile. And the Spanish editorial house Planeta recently informed me that it will publish my book on the existence of God, no less, in 2022 (I come out in favor). So there still is lots of life at 82 it seems."

Paul Winick writes, "So far my wife and I have managed to stay clear of Covid-19. My triplet grandchildren are applying to college. The young man of the trio has applied early decision to Columbia. I've spent time with him extolling Columbia's virtues. I hope he is accepted.

"My wife, Dotty, continues to paint. Although she has had offers, she refuses to sell, but gives them to friends and family. I spend my time mostly reading and writing. My latest book, *Tale of an Unlikely Pediatrician,* has a chapter or two set during my Columbia years. I have finished a [work of] fiction based on real characters, *The Last Two Jews of Kabul,* and am trying to get it published. A number of my stories have appeared in the *Chicken Soup for the Soul* series, and in the last four issues of the American Academy of Pediatrics's *Senior Bulletin.* As I tell my wife, we have to keep on dancing."

From **Matthew Sobel** SEAS'60, GSAS'64 we hear, "My wife, Susan GSAS'78, and I are very fortunate. We live near Cleveland, and continue many of our pre–Covid-19 activities. She became professor emerita in 2020; in 2014 I became professor emeritus at Case Western Reserve University. We continue to publish research papers in major journals and bicycle avidly (four centuries this year). When there is sufficient snow we cross country ski and snowshoe. However, research productivity and bicycling speed diminish with each passing year, and now I avoid cross country trails if they are steep or narrow. We zealously minimize the risk of contracting Covid, but we yearn to resume attending live concerts and traveling. We are keenly aware of what we are missing. Post-vaccination and booster, our Covid mortality risk is low but the disease can be life-changing even after you survive it. My son and his family had delayed severe after-effects although they had seemed to recover completely. My three children and four grandchildren are dispersed in New York, Vermont, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania and Missouri, and I hope to hug most of them in January when we'll cross country ski and watch one of my grandsons play basketball for Middlebury College."

Ralph G. Risley informs us, "The past 14 months have been full of the rigors associated with the virus and the losses caused by not taking it seriously from the start. While at Columbia I was exposed to the rigors of science and fact-based logic. During the past 14 months I have had to deal with and accept the direction of politics and alternative facts.

"This period, while hard, has had its benefits. I have had more time to focus on sifting thru my Rolodex, email addresses and phone numbers, eliminating those I never talk to or have insufficient commonality with to have a discussion. Additionally, as most of you, I have lost a number who have 'crossed the bar.' Two years ago, I stepped back from the edge, saved by a quadruple bypass.

"I have gone back to my roots, which were fed by the substance of Contemporary Civilization and a fact- and science-based thought process.

"In the context of these times, anxiety and isolation have evaporated in the company of Bandit, my Cavalier King Charles Spaniel.

"Now that things have opened up, the open road beckons. We left Tucson, where we live, for three to four months, traveling Highway 1 from San Diego to Washington State. We will return wherever the road takes us."

From Edinburgh, **Charles Raab** writes, "My missives to Class Notes in 2004 and 2009 are now deservedly forgotten, so here is an update. I officially retired in 2007 from my

position as professor of government at the University of Edinburgh, and became emeritus, but I kept on working in several funded research projects. This was anomalous for the university, so, in 2012 it stripped me of my emeritus title (rather like Captain Alfred Dreyfus having his epaulettes torn off on the military parade-ground in Paris), but gave me back my chair until 2015, when it invented a title and a position for me, kept me on the payroll and let me carry on, with more projects and many other things to do, both within and outside the university. I suppose I will ask to be readmitted to emeritus status sometime in the next few years, but who knows?

"Over several years, I have accepted external calls to sit on advisory bodies in the United Kingdom and Scottish governments, with reference to law enforcement and the ethics of policing, and identity verification for public services. These are closely related to the field of data protection and privacy, which has occupied most of my research time for 35-40 years. In the Covid-19 years, all these meetings have been by Zoom and the like, which saves a lot of traveling to London for some of the meetings. But I have had other reasons to go there frequently, including my position as fellow of the Alan Turing Institute, which is in the field of artificial intelligence and data science; I co-chair the Turing's Data Ethics Group. Those meetings are now also virtual rather than in person. I regret not seeing the wonderful exhibitions and so on in London, but most of them were canceled or went online. I am at work on a Turing-based research project that deals with the way privacy, trust and human agency feature in UK and Japanese developments in human-machine interaction. For all these departures (policing, artificial intelligence, human-machine interaction, etc.) I have had to dive over my head into areas of burgeoning literatures, with my lifebuoys being the conceptual staples of privacy, trust and agency that have featured in my earlier long-standing work on surveillance and its regulation. This stretching and absorption is a good way to see whether your neurons still work. People tell me that mine do, but what do they know?

"That aside, I occupy myself with painting and drawing, as I have done since the age of 12, and exhibit occasionally at the Scottish Artists' Club (founded 1873), of which I am a member. My wife, Gillian, and I celebrated our 53rd anniversary last year. She, too, is still gainfully working academically in her field of applied statistics, now as professor emerita and a researcher. She advises, and also reads and writes stuff that I can't hope to make sense of; but we have much to talk (and argue) about with regard to mutual things like data confidentiality, anonymization and government policy (she applies her work to health-related topics). I also do a lot of cooking, while she does a lot of gardening, which includes vegetables, flowers and fruits. She also is well into Jewish philosophy, Hebrew and literature of all kinds. She helps to run our Liberal Jewish congregation and I serve as warden, but our services are currently Zoom-only. So, too, are the talks put on by the venerable Edinburgh Jewish Literary Society (founded 1888), which we help to run.

"Our daughter, Anna, her husband, Tim, and our granddaughters, Connie and Sadie, live about an hour away, where they run a very highly acclaimed restaurant that they have had to scale down during the pandemic. But that enabled them to step away from it and do other things as well (Tim teaches cooking part-time in a post-secondary college). With the 2021 easing of restrictions, the restaurant is getting back on track. Our son, Jonathan, lives in Malta with his son and partner; we haven't been able to visit there for a long time, but hoped to do so in late 2021 if travel restrictions and quarantines eased. Weekly FaceTime calls are a partial substitute. It is a privilege to live in such a beautiful and historic city as Edinburgh, and to make use of its rich and varied cultural resources and facilities."

From **Norman Bernstein** LAW'64 we hear, "I was off to London this past fall for a business conference. I am trustee at two Superfund sites in Indiana, maintain an active legal practice (N.W. Bernstein & Associates; nwbllc.com) focused on solving environmental problems for business and environmental litigation in Federal Appellate Court. I have had the pleasure of beating arguments of the United States Department of Justice in a landmark Superfund case, *Bernstein v. Bankert,* in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit. My wife, Michele Braun (we married in 1995), and I purchased in December 2020 a ranch house in Pound Ridge, N.Y. We have two lovely acres of lush property and a heated in-ground pool."

James Kniskern reports, "On June 3, 2021, I became a great-great grandfather. I am wondering if any classmates share my precious gift. I also have six great-grandchildren: Taylor (21), Nicholas (19), Deven (19), Madison (18), Kaela (17) and Katie (12). I have no living daughters, as they were both killed in an auto accident 29 years ago. A granddaughter was also killed in the accident."

Contributions from **Jerry Friedland, Robin Motz, Mike Tannenbaum** and **Steve Trachtenberg** will have to wait for the Spring/Summer 2022 issue.

I am saddened to report the death of **David Raskin** on April 4, 2021, at Lantern Hill Senior Living (New Providence, R.I.) from Parkinson's. I have no more information.

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Larry Rubinstein loves retirement life in Maine, and is delighted to share his experiences.

"We moved from New York in 2003. For a few years, the Thursday Lunch Group would visit in August for a lobster lunch. I am involved in the cultural life of Portland and sit on a number of arts boards: trustee of the Portland Museum of Art, the Portland Chamber Music Festival, the Choral Art Society, and the Friends of the Kotzschmar Organ. The Kotzschmar is one of the largest concert organs in the United States. Indeed, if one wanted to hear the full repertoire of orchestral music, it cannot be heard in New York, as it has no major concert hall with a pipe organ. We have a fine symphony, as we are one and three-quarters of an hour from Boston and are the triple-A farm team for the Boston Symphony. Our museum is outstanding for its size and is more user-friendly than the Metropolitan Museum or MoMA. As vice-chair of the Maine Arts Commission for six years I started a 501(c)3 to raise money in support of the commission, which has been useful recently since many artists (to whom more than 100 grants have been made) lost 'gigs' and their source of income.

"In addition to a rich cultural life, we can take full advantage of outdoor activities. I bike ride at any time (three to four days a week) on uncrowded streets, and we live about 100 yards off the Eastern Trail (a 19-mile rail-to-trail pathway) where I can either walk or ride my hybrid bike. I am active on the board of the Bicycle Coalition of Maine and sit on the committee that plans BikeMaine, a yearly, fully supported weeklong ride to different parts of Maine.

"I participate in an online program for college grads that resembles Literature Humanities. During the last two years we read *Democracy in America,* a few plays by Shakespeare, the *Iliad,* the *Republic,* some James Baldwin essays and *To the Lighthouse* by Virginia Woolf, and now we are reading the *Decameron.* As one of the older participants I find it fascinating to hear the comments of the younger folk.

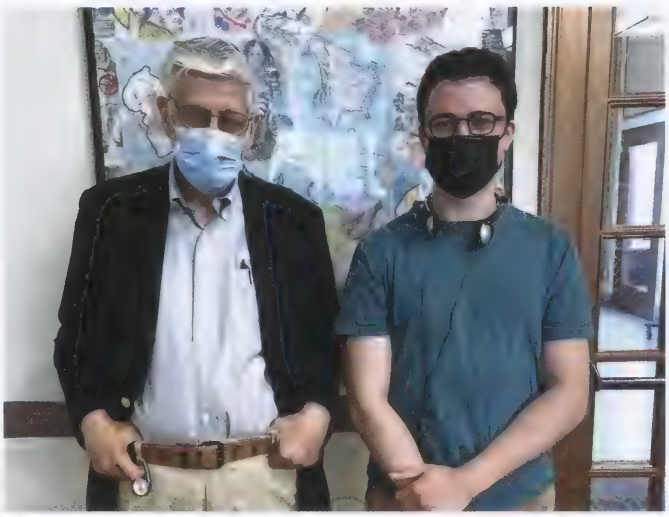
"We live in a condo association. Most of the people are retired and we enjoy a wonderful social life with them. My one Columbia connection on a personal level is with Derek Wittner '65, who moved to Kennebunkport a few years ago with his wife, Kathryn, after he retired. He was dean of alumni affairs and development for the College and she worked in what was then called Student Affairs. We have a good time discussing Columbia.

"I continue to enjoy listening to music and playing the piano. Right now I am working on Schubert impromptus, a Chopin waltz and some Joplin rags. When I walk on the Eastern Trail, I listen to opera, most recently *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg* and *Don Carlos.*

"I am so sorry to see that we lost some of our more famous classmates. It reminds me of our fragility as we move into our 80s."

Four classmates have had books published recently.

Thad Long is the author of *The Impossible Mock Orange Trial,* a fictitious account of an effort to represent a corporate defendant in a civil suit in a venue notoriously unfavorable to corporate defendants. As Thad describes it, "Although



AMY POLLACK

Former College Dean Robert Pollack '61 and his grandson Eilam Lehrman '22 were at Faculty House on October 8 to view the collage behind them, which was created by Pollack's wife, Amy.

written as fiction, it is based on an actual rollercoaster case I tried that got a lot of local and national notoriety as one of the most significant trials of the year. It details the effort to obtain justice in a hostile venue, and the struggle to win with a meritorious defense when the sympathy, home turf and emotional factors are pulling powerfully in the opposite direction. Even a bribery attempt has to be dealt with."

A review of the book on Goodreads expands on Thad's introduction and succinctly summarizes the relevant facts, obstacles and issues. See it online: bit.ly/3wFVqfe.

Bill Tanenbaum is the author of a novel, *Future Memories,* that focuses on the experiences of three teenage Jewish students who escape from Poland in 1940 before the German occupation is complete and flee to Shanghai. Although reluctant to go, they leave their families behind, anticipating returning to them after the war.

They endure fear and suffer hardship in their struggle to reach Shanghai and from the moment of their departure from Poland through the time spent in Shanghai, they face uncertainty as to where they will be after the war. In Shanghai, they become part of the more than 20,000 Jews who sought refuge from the war raging in Europe. With the Japanese occupation and control of Shanghai, the students, as well as the Chinese, suffer intolerable living conditions throughout the war. Memories of family and home help these Jewish students survive. Little do they know that these memories will be all that remains of their life from pre-war Europe.

Tom Hamilton's vivid imagination and prolific pen have produced his fifth book of fiction, *Altered Times*. In this collection of 12 short stories, Tom examines consequences that could result if a single historical event had taken a different course. The first example proceeds with an event theorized by astronomers, that the Moon was formed when a Mars-sized planet, Theia, made a glancing impact with Earth 4.2 billion years ago. But what if Theia avoided the collision and our Moon never came into existence? Moving rapidly ahead, Tom considers what might have occurred had Caesar heeded the Soothsayer's cry from the crowd, "beware the ides of March." And what if Aaron Burr's flintlock misfired and, the duel aborted, Alexander Hamilton CC 1778 went on to pursue and fulfill a political career? As the stories proceed in time to the present Tom presents two alternative outcomes of the events of that pivotal day, January 6, 2021, when Congress was proceeding to certify the results of the presidential election. Be prepared for a version grievously repugnant, and a second version reassuringly whimsical.

Bob Abrams SIPA'63, GSAS'66 has written his memoir, *The Luckiest Guy in the World: My Journey in Politics.* As Bob describes it, "It traces my family roots, stories about growing up in the Bronx, some of my reflections about attending Columbia and how it triggered my entry into politics, my various races for the state Assembly, borough president of the Bronx and New York State attorney general.

"It includes behind-the-scenes stories of my interactions with prominent figures such as Mario Cuomo, Hugh Carey, George McGovern, John Lindsay, Shirley Chisholm, Cesar Chavez, Robert Moses and Golda Meir. I trace my battles as a reformer and insurgent against the political bosses as well as my efforts as attorney general to clean up the environment, protect consumers, retain a woman's right to choose and vigorously enforce Civil Rights laws. The introduction captures my successful effort at keeping the Yankees in the Bronx, escaping the fate of the Brooklyn Dodgers and the New York Giants."

For those who might not be fully familiar with Bob's career, he served three terms in the New York State Assembly, three terms as Bronx borough president and four terms as attorney general. He served as president of the National Association of Attorneys General and in recognition of his stellar efforts in professionalizing the New York office, received the Kelley-Wyman Memorial Award as the outstanding attorney general in the nation. Indeed, he has received several hundred awards from academic, business, professional, public interest, religious and philanthropic organizations. Bob might have the unique distinction of seeing a government office building — housing the Court of Claims and the Appellate Division, Third Judicial Department — renamed in his lifetime, as the Robert Abrams Building for Law and Justice.

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See the above photo of **Bob Pollack** and his grandson Eilam Lehrman '22 at Faculty House this past October, after the first in-person lunch of Professor Pollack's Research Cluster on Science and Subjectivity to meet in Faculty House since late 2019. Behind them is Bob's wife Amy Pollack's 1995 collage *Primary Geography,* on display since 2019.

Chuck Gutowski BUS'63 is translating another book from the French. This one is a historical novel about Geneva in the 1930s and Swiss neutrality during WWII. The author is a highly respected Swiss journalist.

Chuck would like to hear from anyone with information about any foreigners interned in Switzerland during the war. He can be reached at cgg@bluewin.ch.

Sam Cherniak LAW'80 has finally retired from his position in the Law Department of the New York County Supreme Court. He says he looks forward to reading books that interest him and seasonally cultivating his herb garden in Tusten, N.Y.

David Konstan GSAS'67's latest book, *The Origin of Sin: Greece and Rome, Early Judaism and Christianity* (online: bit.ly/3kTrY0G),), is about to be published. David believes the book should be of interest to a fairly wide readership, and is being sold at a modest price.

James Milgram donated his large collection of orthopaedic pathology glass slides and photographs to The Johns Hopkins Department of Pathology in September. The collection will be stored in a special room in the department's Division of Neuropathology and will be under the care of Dr. John Gross. The collection contains more than 50,000 slides and includes the teaching collection from Northwestern, some Johns Hopkins cases and material from the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology. Jim was informed it will be called The Milgram Collection.

Bob Salman LAW'64 analyzed the 2020 election, made predictions about some 2021 elections, looked at the 2022 midterm elections and even touched on the 2024 presidential race on the class monthly Zoom call on October 20. He repeated much of this program in an October 25 lecture at Brookdale Community College Lifelong Learning program. As a member of the New Jersey Democratic State Committee, Bob was active in Gov. Phil Murphy's reelection campaign.

Bob's granddaughter Taylor is a branch administrator for wealth management at Morgan Stanley, and his granddaughter Sydney is a clinical dietician at Hartford Hospital. Bob

says Sydney recently got engaged to a great guy named Tyler, even though he is a Red Sox fan! Bob's grandson Jack is a junior at Wharton, where he is a TA. Finally, Bob's granddaughter Mackenzie is enjoying life as a freshman at the University of Florida in Gainesville. Bob and his wife, Reva, plan on a February vacation at their daughter Elyse's Palm Beach home. Elyse's husband, David, is the grand-nephew of Columbia legend Sid Luckman '39.

Stan Weiss writes that he and his wife, Betsy, are well, but still not going to movies or shows because of Covid-19!

Mickey Greenblatt SEAS'62 has assumed the role of monthly class Zoom meeting coordinator after **Tony Adler**'s untimely passing. Live monthly luncheon meetings of the New York City group remain in limbo as a result of Covid-19.

As noted, **Bob Salman** spoke on the upcoming elections; **Allen Kaplan** spoke about Covid on November 3; **Tom Lippman** discussed the Middle East situation on November 17; and **Oscar Garfein** PS'65, BUS'97 and **Stan Weiss** discussed staying healthy on December 15.

My wife, JB, and I completed the sale of our San Antonio home and moved full-time to Frisco, Colo., in September. We had split our time between the locations for about 10 years, but since the onset of Covid-19, have spent the majority of time in Frisco. We continue to be volunteer ski ambassadors at Copper Mountain and enjoy the mountain environment.

Mich Araten SEAS'71 informed me that **Arnold Goldberg** SEAS'62 passed away on September 22, 2021, in Palm Beach, Fla. Arnold earned a B.A. from the College, a B.S. from Columbia Engineering and a Ph.D. in chemical engineering from the University of Minnesota. After a varied career, he retired as president of AIG Programs Loss Control Services. Donations in memoriam may be made to Hospice of Palm Beach County.

Bob Ladau GSAPP'65 wrote that **Eric Rosenfeld** passed away of Covid-19–related causes in the company of his wife and son on August 24, 2021. Eric was an inveterate traveler, shooter, fisherman, polo player, climber and cyclist, and was a leader in Millbrook and Duchess County in New York.

Eric graduated from Harvard Law. Asked about his most important experience at Harvard Law, he replied, "mountain climbing." While simultaneously pursuing corporate and real estate law in New York with the firm of Rosenfeld, Fischbein, Bernstein & Tannenhauser — his partners for more than 40 years — he pursued his passion for climbing. His favorite story about his law practice was coming down to a limousine and finding someone in his car talking to his driver. That trespasser was Bob Dylan, who had mistaken the car as his own. Eric proceeded to spend an entertaining evening with the singer.

History, particularly military history, was a lifelong interest. Woe be the poor lecturer who received a letter of correction and criticism. More often than not he or she was won over to Eric's usually correct and encyclopedic recollection of history. He read widely and retained information, which he could deploy at lightning speed.

Eric cut a wide swath through many clubs at various points: The University Club of New York, The Explorers Club, Harvard Club, Mashomack Preserve, Millbrook Golf & Tennis Club, The Fusiliers, Tamarack Preserve and Squadron A Association, in addition to being a founding member of Mashomack Polo Club. His passion for riding was an original motivation to move to Millbrook.

Eric is survived by his wife of 36 years, Diane "Dede" Rosenfeld of Millbrook, and son, Timothy, of Lawrence, Mass. Another long-held passion of Eric's was the Duchess Land Conservancy, where he was a founding board member. Memorial contributions made be sent there: Duchess Land Conservancy, PO Box 138, Millbrook, NY 12545.

If you wish to send a note to Eric's family, the address is 767 Bangall Amenia Rd., Amenia, NY 12501.

Eric's oenophilia enlivened his adult life and led him and Dede to ownership of two charming houses in Burgundy, ultimately in Beaune, the heart of wine country. Eric was a proud Chevalier du Tastevin, and both a discerning drinker and eater. He found joy in his large garden behind the house on Bangall-Amenia Road, and that joy doubled at the table when consuming wine and the fruits of his garden with friends.

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REUNION 2022
JUNE 9–12
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Following are some regular notes and the responses from classmates, A to L, discussing what two or three developments over their lifetimes were most significant to them and why.

But, first, my apology to **Frank Stoppenbach** and the rest of our class for inverting the meaning of a central point in his reply that appeared in the Fall 2021 issue. Frank actually wrote: "Some easy calculations can show that, if a viral disease (which affects only a small fraction of a population) has an antiviral treatment, say at the same cost as a vaccine, it would be far *less* costly to treat illnesses rather than vaccinate the entire population." I wrote "more" instead of "less."

Steve Stein, whose response arrived too late for the Fall 2021 issue, wrote: "Climate change, because it is a threat to our country and the entire world as we know it with ever-worsening widespread storms, famine, floods and fires of biblical proportion. The pandemic, because it has killed more Americans than all our 20th-century wars combined. I hope a curative medicine will be developed and tested for safety and efficacy. In the meantime, mass vaccination and masking are our only hope to stop the spread of the Covid-19 virus."

Andy Jampoler SIPA'81 listed: "War against Hitler and the Nazis, because I improbably survived being born in German-occupied Poland in 1942. The war in Vietnam, because I spent a year on the ground there in the service of a misguided cause. And January 6, because I fear it means we in the United States are on a terrible and perhaps irreversible path."

Roman Kernitsky said: "The three most significant developments for me have been 1.) Cold War and fear of communism, because my parents and relatives lived under communism, and I saw firsthand the terror they endured. The fall of the Soviet Union was an unexpected and wonderful event. 2.) Legalization of abortion. As a Roman Catholic I was upset to see abortion legalized by the unelected Supreme Court. Abortion is not mentioned in the Constitution, and it should have been left to the democratic functioning of the individual states. And 3.) Deaths and medical struggles of your peers. The recent death of my wife, to whom I was married for 51 years, from breast cancer was the most traumatic development in my life, and I will never recover from it."

Chris Haakon thought the list was great, but added three developments that were especially significant to him due to his work on the exploration of space and national defense: Landing astronauts on the moon. Creation of television. And creation of the global positioning system aka GPS, and all the subsequent location technology. "After college," he wrote, "I started working for Paramount Pictures in New York, where they developed a single gun TV tube, Trinitron. They sold the patent to Sony for half a million and got out of the TV market. Dumb move. I also had a tie to landing men on the moon. Our photogrammetrists selected the landing sites from Lunar Orbiter imagery."

From Hendersonville, N.C., **Arthur Lebowitz** emailed: "As a physician whose sub-specialty was infectious diseases, AIDS was most impactful. I'd been practicing at Bellevue for 10 years when I saw something new: the occurrence of co-extant rare infections, such as pneumocystis, multiple parasites, cytomegalovirus, toxoplasmosis and the previously very rare malignancy, Kaposi's sarcoma, in one individual. But personally, nothing compares with the rise of the internet and artificial intelligence. Without a smartphone and the internet, I'd be lost. Third is the ubiquitous effects of climate change. Fourth, the rise of fascism under Trump accompanied by the collapse of a responsible Republican party, overt racism and naked attempts to suppress voting. I omitted Covid-19, because with advances in vaccine design, it is medically manageable, provided our leaders implement well-established public health policies."

Geza Feketekuty wrote: "After thinking about the list of major events during our lifetime and how I



From left, Doron Gopstein '63, Steve Barcan '63 and Paul Neshamkin '63 cheered the Lions on home turf when they took on Harvard on November 6.

was affected, I recalled my job as the budget examiner in the Bureau of the Budget (now the Office of Management and Budget) during the Vietnam War. I reviewed all nonmilitary expenditures in East Asia, including Vietnam. One of my first tasks was to provide greater accuracy of the probable costs of President Johnson's Vietnam policies. That led me to make an unexpected recommendation to increase the budget by $5 billion. My proposal was greeted by great derision, but finally accepted. Everyone was trying to understate costs to mollify Johnson. After Nixon was elected, I was sent to Vietnam to inform the embassy's Mission Council that all future budgetary requests should be significantly reduced. When I was told that no one know how to do that, the White House instructed me to stay in Vietnam to draft a budget request that met the new requirements. Of course, later in the process, I had to review the request I had drafted after it had been submitted by the Agency for International Development!"

David Cohen thought: "The list of major events during our lifetime was sobering. I was of course aware of them all, but experienced them merely in the background as I pursued my personal and family goals. Sort of like Forrest Gump, but going forward in time rather than backward. The great historical and philosophical themes we had studied, emerged in reality, but I finessed them and felt them only abstractly until several hit me between the eyes: two economic recessions with loss of employment and income, along with Trump and my lost faith in our political system. In the end we cannot control our media and environment. I am fortunate to feel empowered to enjoy my semiretirement and get more involved."

Richard Schwartz GSAS'67 was clear about what was most significant to him: "Climate change and our collective default in controlling air pollution due to global consumption of fossil fuels is the greatest crisis facing our survival. In the '90s, I resided in the beautiful mountain community of Paradise, Calif. It was a shock when the Camp Fire of 2018 leveled this pristine community of 11,000 homes. Also, the pervasive use of the internet has spawned social platforms which, sadly, are used maliciously to spread falsehoods. The harm to the fabric of society is incalculable. On the other hand, the internet has brought our generation much good."

Carl Jakobsson SEAS'63 reports that "after graduating from the Engineering School, I served two years in the Navy, and then stayed on as a civilian, working as an engineer for approximately 42 years. I retired in March 2007. In retirement I have been active with my church and the NAACP. I chair the Political Action Committee of the Bremerton, Wash., branch and the International Relations Committee of the Alaska Oregon Washington-State Area Conference. I've been married since 1988 to Estela. It is a second marriage for both of us, and we have seven adult children, 23 grandchildren and one great-granddaughter."

In late September **Phil Lille** SIPA'64 emailed to say that **Charles "Lucky" Bowers** LAW'65 had passed away on September 19, 2020, and that his passing had not been reported in this column. I apologize to all of Lucky's family, friends and classmates for this oversight. I had not heard that sad news. Lucky grew up in New Brighton, Pa. After graduating from the Law School and being offered positions by several major New York law firms, he returned to New Brighton to practice. He was a skilled civil and criminal litigator and master of cross-examination. In a long, distinguished career, he was most proud of serving more than 50 years as the borough solicitor for his hometown. In 2019 the Western Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers Association awarded Lucky its Champion of Justice award. He was also a sailor and golfer. His wife, Janice, died before him, but he is survived by three children and a grandson, Charlie Bowers. [Editor's note: See "Obituaries."]

In August I had a delightful lunch and conversation with **John Kater,** who was visiting his cousin's widow, a Sri Lankan, who lives near Middlebury. John had recently returned to the United States after teaching at Ming Hua Theological College in Hong Kong for more than 10 years.

1963

Paul Neshamkin
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It was good to reconnect with **Phil Satow** in person at Homecoming. We only had a minute to greet each other, but it reminded me how much I have missed seeing all of you. It was a beautiful day, a great crowd and an exciting win! I hope by the time you read this I will have seen more of you at the remaining home games, and perhaps at our live, monthly class lunches, which, I hope, will have returned. Although we have continued to hold our virtual lunches, now biweekly, it would be so much better to greet you in person.

Kalmon Post PS'76 has been named president-elect of The Pituitary Society, an international organization dedicated to furthering the understanding of diseases of the pituitary gland. Kalmon is the surgical co-director of the Pituitary Care and Research Center and chair emeritus of the Department of Neurosurgery, the Faculty Practice Associates, and The Medical Board at Mount Sinai. He is internationally known for his work and results treating pituitary and parasellar tumors, as well as cerebellopontine angle tumors, particularly acoustic neuroma with hearing preservation.

Kalmon earned an M.D. from NYU, followed by a surgical internship and residency in neurosurgery NYU and Bellevue. He completed fellowship training at the National Institutes of Health and the National Institutes of Neurological Diseases and Blindness. Kalmon began his academic career as an instructor of neurosurgery at the Tufts University School of Medicine, followed by positions of increasing responsibility at P&S. In 1991 he joined The Mount Sinai Medical Center as professor and chair of the Department of Neurosurgery. Kalmon has been president of the New York Neurosurgical Society and the New York State Neurosurgical Society and is presently on the editorial boards of *Neurosurgery, World Neurosurgery, Surgical Neurology* and *Pituitary.*

Mel Gurtov SIPA'65 writes, "I continue to do research and write on international affairs. Last year I published my 30th book, *America in Retreat: Foreign Policy under Donald Trump,* and I am in my seventh year of blogging (In the Human Interest, melgurtov.com). I also do podcasts and a local radio program, both as The Global Citizen."

Art Eisenson writes, "Garth Hallberg '64, JRN'69, BUS'70, author of *The Piketty Problem, or The Robots Are Coming, the Robots Are Coming,* and I have been saying kind things about each other's novels. He has a new one in the works, and I have the first of a bunch up on Kindle Direct, *Choke Hold: A Paranoid Thriller,* by Frank Steel (online: bit.ly/3oG7gm7). The pseudonym is a reclamation of the English translations of my grandparents' surnames, and besides, 'Arthur M. Eisenson' is a fine name for an academician or doctor or lawyer or some such respectable person, none of which is me."

Alan Wilensky writes, "I retired as a full professor in 2015 after almost 40 years as attending at the University of Washington's Regional Epilepsy Center. Since retiring, my wife, Judi, and I spend about eight months a year in Seattle and (pre- and post–Covid-19) and four on the

East Coast visiting family, including our three daughters and six grandchildren. Our oldest daughter graduated from the College in 1992, our second from the University of Rochester in 1995 and the youngest from Barnard in 2001. Our oldest grandchild graduated from high school last year and will attend the U of Rochester. When we are in NYC on the second Tuesday of the month, I look forward to attending our class luncheon."

In August **Peter Gollon** GSAS'69 marked the subsidence — temporary, as it turned out — of Covid by joining a group hiking in Zion National Park, Bryce Canyon National Park and the substantially reduced in size Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, all in Utah. He writes, "From an ambient temperature point of view July wasn't the best time to be there, but these days one takes what one can get." He says he enjoys being physically fit, even if he can't keep up with people 20 years younger. If he ever could.

Nick Zill's Capitol Comedy troupe received some early, good reviews in Los Angeles. Read his latest review, for *Biden My Time,* online: bit.ly/ 3CqNHmo. The opening number from Capitol Comedy's show filmed at the Zephyr Theatre in West Hollywood may now be seen in full on YouTube: youtu.be/ubf8Ye7Fg3c.

On a more serious note, Nick writes in his Institute of Family Studies blog, "Growing Up With Mom and Dad: New Data Confirm The Tide Is Turning" (online: bit.ly/30vQVIn), "It is too early to say for certain but growing numbers of actual and would-be parents seem to be heeding the conventional wisdom that a stable two-parent family helps children flourish … ." And, "One of the most encouraging developments is the rebound in the proportion of black children being raised by their biological fathers as well as their birth mothers.""

Steve Barcan reports four wonderful family events from last spring. Steve and his wife, Bettye BC'65, have four grandchildren. In May and June, they and their family celebrated a confirmation, a college graduation, a bar mitzvah and a high school graduation at Fenway Park! It was just weeks of continual excitement.

Zev bar-Lev writes, "Our kids have moved to Texas and elsewhere. I'm busy writing my book, *Be Try-Lingual* (it's almost impossible for adults to be truly bilingual, but anyone can be try-lingual, trying out bits and pieces from many languages). My book contains examples of lexicon and literature from French, Italian, Spanish, Greek, Russian, Hebrew, Arabic, Chinese and Japanese."

Howard Freese GS'67 writes, "I have two grandsons in Southern California. Both are graduates of Harbor Day School (Newport Coast) and Corona del Mar H.S, (Newport Beach), and have full scholarships to UC Berkeley; both nearly 4.0 grades throughout. Jake Giffin is now in medical school at UC Irvine. Kyle Giffin (younger brother) left UC Berkeley after seven semesters to work on CRISPR technology and start LatchBio. Two interesting connecting points are Nobel Prize winner Jennifer Doudna and Samuel Sternberg '07 (*CCT,* Fall 2021).

"I'm retired but still active with ASTM and implantable metallic biomaterials. My wife, Gail, and I have traveled extensively to Europe (Paris Air Show and Farnborough Airshow for ATI Allvac, 1994–2014; many Viking Cruises including France, Italy, Spain, Russia, Hungary, Amalfi Coast, Mediterranean Sea, Rhine-Danube Rivers, etc.). Plus regular summer trips to Western Montana to visit North Carolina friends who have moved to the Bitterroot Valley and to the Lemhi Pass (Lewis and Clark, Sacagawea) on the Montana-Idaho border."

We've lost two more of our classmates. I have been informed by his widow, Joan, that **Sam Fromowitz** died last April. He was a retired Foreign Service officer. And just after my *CCT* deadline passed, I learned of the death of **Peter Zimroth.** *Requiescat in Pace.*

[Editor's note: See "Obituaries" for more on both.]

When you're back in NYC, you can reconnect with your classmates at our regular second Thursday class lunches at the Columbia Club (we will still gather at the Princeton Club). We hope to meet again this winter/spring on February 10, March 10 and April 14. In any case, we will continue to meet virtually on Zoom every first and third Thursday at 12:30 p.m. EST. Let me know if you'd like to join us, and I'll send you an invite.

In the meantime, please let us know what you are up to, how you're doing and what's next. Stay safe!

1964

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During the last 18 months I have started Class Notes expressing the hope that by the time the column appears, society's lot in the time of a pandemic will have improved. Alas, my hopes have been dashed. At this writing (October 2021), more than 730,000 Americans have died from the virus and many millions more are infected.

But there are some reasons for optimism: More and more people are being vaccinated (some as the result of private and public mandates). Here in New York City, restaurants and theaters are opening, masking requirements are limited to certain places such as public buses, and news reports say that the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines (with boosters) will provide more long-term protection than originally anticipated. I remain cautious: While I remove my mask for walks in Central Park, I wear it in enclosed spaces such as elevators and supermarkets. I hope all of you are being careful.

Bob Goldman writes from California: "After 50 years of teaching, research and administration at UC Berkeley, interspersed with long periods of work in India and Oxford, I finally bit the bullet and retired (in a manner of speaking) from the university last June as a professor of Sanskrit and the Catherine and William L. Magistretti Distinguished Professor in South & Southeast Asian Studies. I have since been appointed as professor in the Graduate School, and I will continue to teach my graduate seminar on Sanskrit literature and, *Deo volente*, supervise my continuing doctoral students until all have filed their dissertations. I remain heavily engaged in a number of ongoing research projects.

"I entered the College as a chemistry major fully intending to do the pre-med thing, but in our sophomore year I took the long-established course Oriental Civilizations (permissible in those days to be called that). This was a subject about which I knew little or nothing, but it seemed as if it might be new and engaging. Under the tutelage of such extraordinary scholars and teachers as Professors Wm. Theodore de Bary '41, GSAS'53; Ainslie Embree GSAS'60; John Thomas Meskill; and others, we learned about the great civilizations of India, China and Japan from antiquity to modernity, an amazing intellectual journey. I found the cultures and civilizations of China and Japan fascinating, but the study of Indian civilization just blew me away. When I asked Professor Embree what courses I could take to learn more, he said, 'If you are seriously interested in the study of India, you should take Sanskrit.' Being young and foolishly impressionable as I was, I said, 'Uh … OK.' And that was it. I changed my major to Oriental studies and completed my doctorate in Sanskrit at Penn in 1970. It was bit of a blow, I guess, to my parents, but my mother at least had the satisfaction of truthfully introducing me to her friends thereafter as Dr. Goldman, without specifying what *kind* of doctor.

"I went to India 1968–70 and, living and working among traditionally trained Sanskrit Pandits, I kind of missed all the ructions at the College and around the country in that fraught time. I was so out of what was going on in the world that when, one day in July 1969, an Indian professor at the Deccan College rushed up to me in great excitement, and pumped my hand saying, 'By God, you did it! You walked on the moon!' I actually thought that he had lost his mind.

"After that first stay in India, I was for a year assistant professor at the University of Rochester, then came to Berkeley in 1971 just as the last clouds of tear gas were drifting across campus. I remember being stunned to see that many of my colleagues had gas masks on coat hangers in their offices.

"In the half-century since coming to Berkeley I have authored a number of books and many scholarly articles. My major work has been as organizer, general editor and a principal translator of a seven-volume, ca. 5,000-page translation and annotation of the critical edition of the ancient, monumental and enormously influential Sanskrit epic poem, the *Rāmāyaṇa,* attributed to the legendary poet-seer Vālmīki. This was in part a collaborative work with several scholars that my wife and colleague, Senior Lecturer Emerita in Sanskrit Sally Sutherland Goldman Ph.D., and I produced together. The seven volumes

were published serially 1984–2017. A single volume, a revised and unabridged translation of the seven-volume set without the original publication's dense and voluminous scholarly annotation, will appear in January 2022 in paperback for the benefit of college students and a general readership curious to know about one of the most influential works ever written and one of the foundational texts of the civilizations of South and Southeast Asia from antiquity to today's news.

"Along the way I have received a number of awards and honors, starting with the Taraknath Das Prize from the College at graduation, then a Guggenheim Fellowship, the Spaulding Visiting Fellowship at Wolfson College, Oxford, election as a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the President's (of India, that is) Certificate for Sanskrit (International), the World Sanskrit Award, and the Distinguished Teaching Award from UC Berkeley.

"So there is no doubt that my time at Columbia dramatically changed my academic focus and my life as, I suppose, the best educations are meant to do. Since graduation I have been back on the campus numerous times to meet colleagues, attend meetings, present papers and so on, and, of course for our 50th reunion.

"Last summer, after deciding with no little trepidation to risk the travel issues in the midst of the pandemic to visit my three sons, their two wives and my two grandchildren, my wife and I did a tour of NYC, Boston and Philadelphia to visit, respectively, with them and their families. Jesse '95 (Ph.D. KSU) lives with his wife and their daughter, Clara (7), in Springfield, Pa. He teaches physics at Drexel. My middle son, Seth (UC San Diego, Ph.D. Harvard), lives in Brookline, Mass., with his wife and their two-and-a-half-year-old son, Zev Inder. He runs a biological testing lab at Harvard. The youngest, Aaron '08, SPS'21, last summer completed an M.A. in applied analytics from the School of Professional Studies. He lives in Brooklyn with his girlfriend while he looks for work in tech.

"Our rambles in Morningside brought back a lot of memories of our relatively blissful youth.

"Heartfelt good wishes to all the gallant lads of '64."

With the pandemic shutting down our monthly in-person class lunch in Manhattan, **Bernard Catalinotto** has taken the reins and hosted a monthly Zoom meeting. He writes from California: "About a dozen of us have met virtually during the past five months, starting with a kickoff meeting in July and proceeding every four weeks to date. Five to eight participants have met informally each time, signing in from the Berkshires, Great Neck, Florida, the Bay Area and even West 86th Street. We've received wisdom on a head-spinning variety of topics from classmates with expertise in Latin American politics, construction engineering (Florida collapse), artificial intelligence, teaching mathematics, performing modern dance, promoting Broadway plays, working as an expat in Saudi Arabia, consulting to pasta factories in Sicily and other cool topics I've forgotten. We've also gotten to know one another better in a lighthearted way, now that much of the book has been written, and we even allowed a little kvelling over our descendants and grandchildren. Thanks to **Joel Abramson, Steve Case, Beryl Lapson, Dave Levin, Steve Rodner, Jonathan Stein, Peter Thall, Richard Waldinger** and **Michael Wimpfheimer** for contributing. Next meetings are February 10, March 10 and April 7, 4 p.m. EST, Zoom ID=7114899750. It's a great way to keep in touch."

Bernard can be reached at bernardcatalinotto@gmail.com.

Yossi "Joseph" Alpher, a well-known author and columnist living in Israel, has his latest book out in February: *Death Tango: Ariel Sharon, Yasser Arafat and Three Fateful Days in March* looks at three events [that took place] March 27–29, 2002, and their enduring impact on peace in the Middle East.

By the time this column appears 2022 will be upon us. Happy New Year. I wish each of you and your loved ones Good Health, Peace, Joy and Prosperity.

1965

Leonard Pack
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Bill Mitchell '64 sent me a copy of a note sent by David Filipek GS'67 to his fraternity brothers on the passing of **Jim Boosales** in August 2021: "I'm very sorry to report that Jim passed away a few weeks ago (online: bit.ly/3orclyq). Jim and I both pledged Beta during our first semester. Our pledge class was large, 13 of us: John Cirigliano '64, Lenny DeFiore '64, Bill Mitchell '64 and Stan Yancovitz '63 were upperclassmen; **Jim "Boo" Boosales, Steve Danenberg,** Tod DeFronzo, Dave Filipek GS'67, Steve Freese, **Roger Holloway, Jerry Hug** (our pledge class president), **Mike Moore** and **Jack Strauch** were first-semester freshmen. Boo immediately became close to all of us. He was responsible for recruiting many more Betas from the Class of 1965 (and later classes as well). Our class's Betas include **Ron Adsit, Jim Alfini, John Bashaar, Bill Brown, Gene Chwerchak, Art Cutler, Bob Donohue, Lou Tangorra** and **Ed Vassallo SEAS'65.** Also: John Murphy and Paul Kastin '66. Boo was a linchpin of our Class of '65, as well as a mainstay at the Beta House.

"A fond memory from our freshman year occurred at the Columbia Spring Carnival, 1962. A Chevy Impala convertible was raffled off, and I was with Boo when he found out that he had won it. Boo drove home to Chicago that summer in style." [Editor's note: See "Obituaries."]

James Levy LAW'68's loyalty to our football team was finally rewarded on October 22. Jim writes: "Columbia College's remarkable football shutout triumph last Friday night, occurring as it did in the wilds of Hanover, N.H., against a nationally ranked Dartmouth team, has generated a plethora of thoughts, memories and flashbacks, which euphoria, not yet tempered by discretion, compels me to share with others. Having attended probably 15–20 of the biennial rites of gridiron agony in the Granite State since relocating in 1969 to St. Albans, Vt., yesterday's denouement (a 19–0 win) was stunning, as well as cathartic, perhaps because it was so unexpected. The following comments, observations and reminiscences come to mind:

"The absence of the Columbia band, whose ranks at one time included my son Daniel '94, was somewhat disappointing. Once billed as the 'cleverest band in the world,' and often surpassing its justly earned off-color (no pun intended) reputation by performing outlandish skits that undoubtedly would be verboten in today's woke environment, the band if it had been present undoubtedly would have added notes of outrageous vibrancy to the fall evening event. Some of its more compelling performances, retrieved from memory lane, are:

"a. Leading the Columbia section of the crowd in an unfortunately all-too-frequent fourth-quarter chant: "You may be winning but we get to leave."

"b. Addressing the Big Green student body: "For all you Dartmouth students who were rejected by the Columbia Admissions Office, we dedicate the next number to you," followed by a refrain from 'I Hear You Knockin' But You Can't Come In.'

"c. Paying tribute to the Dartmouth community by depicting Hanover as 'a venue where the sheep outnumber the human denizens.'

"Finally, I can't memorialize this remarkable night in Hanover without reflecting on some of my departed classmates and friends, who were so much a vital part of the Columbia football tradition and with whom I now should be sharing my glee and exuberance after so many years of frustration and disappointment (perhaps better characterized as gridlock on the gridiron). Among them:

"a. **Peter Mound** (also my classmate and dear friend at Trinity School, Class of 1961). After every Columbia victory (far too few during the past five decades), one of us instantly would pick up the phone to call the other, no matter where we were at the time, and engage in a clinical analysis of the Lions' win. As an example of our seemingly manic absorption in all matters relating to Columbia football, I recall a Saturday in late September 1971 when Columbia's vanquishment of Princeton, thereby breaking a losing streak extending across many years, triggered a phone call where the birth of my son several days previously was only mentioned as an afterthought or footnote. Ah, if only Peter were still around to savor the bliss of the moment, the culmination of years of loyal, dedicated devotion to a football program that generated for half a century nothing but frustration, angst and disappointment but at long last seems to have turned the corner.

"b. **Lee Dunn,** who on several occasions joined me in Hanover

(coming from his Boston home base) to endure the Dartmouth football experience. Renowned for his spirited repartees, he probably would have elevated victory celebration to a new plateau.

"c. David Keith Mano '63 (also a Trinity School alum), whom I believe attended most Lion football games no matter the venue. I will always remember fondly our all-too-brief biennial encounters in Hanover.

"Roar, Lion, Roar!"

Don Bachman PS'69 sent a pandemic-era update: "We have thus far avoided getting Covid-19 and received immunization as soon as we could. Our activity was limited for the last 18 months but dividing the year between Cape Cod in the summer and Sanibel Island, Fla., was not a major hardship. I realized that many activities and commitments I skipped were hardly missed and life has been simpler. Having retired from medicine, I am sometimes envious of classmates who continue to work at fulfilling careers, but it seemed time for me to step back. My wife, Karen, and I observed our 50th wedding anniversary on July 11 and were able to fit into our wedding outfits, although body shape has changed. The week in Provence or Tuscany will have to be deferred to 51, as well as many places on our travel list not yet realized."

Don also sent me this link to an excellent in memoriam article about **Alan Green** in *Neuropsychopharmacology*: go.nature.com/3Haiqb4.

Bob Caserio has been no slouch in retirement. "In April, Penn State's College of the Liberal Arts presented me with its 2021 Emeritus Distinction award. The award is for continuing scholarly endeavor after retirement. I retired in July 2018. In 2020, alongside editorial and consulting jobs, I contributed chapters to [Christopher] *Isherwood in Transit* and *Diplomacy and the Modern Novel: France, Britain, and the Mission of Literature* and I published an essay and four book reviews in various scholarly journals. My co-edited *The Cambridge History of the English Novel* (2012) was reissued in paperback. Other things are in the pipeline.

"The pandemic has helped keep me to my desk, although I expect that a greater freedom would not have much distanced me from study. The best news of 2020–21 was the continuation of dear Columbia friendships with **Howard Matz, Roy Skodnick** GSAS'67 and **David Denby** JRN'66, and the resumption of other friendships, with **Michael Friedman** (Mike and I shared days post-Columbia at Cambridge University) and with friends Dickens scholar Robert Newsom '66 (who also came to Cambridge) and poet and Conrad scholar Aaron Fogel '67, GSAS'77. Now I must restore contacts with **Peter Rutter** and **Elliot Dorff** GSAS'71! Any news of them?"

Peter, Elliot and all other classmates, let your correspondent hear from you!

Arnold Fleischer LAW'68 generously contributed some memories of **Ed Goodgold.** "Ed and I, along with **Len Zwerling** and **Bill Wertheim,** were classmates at Brooklyn's Tilden H.S. before moving on to the College. (Our high school classmates are **Harvey Rubin SEAS'65,** SEAS'70; **Joel Bert SEAS'65; Jerry Rosenbaum SEAS'65,** SEAS'71; and Susan Rothberg Malbin BC'65.)

"Ed chose me as a judge at the first trivia contest because I knew the real name of actor Bruce Bennett (*Mildred Pierce*, *Treasure of the Sierra Madre* and more to the point from a trivia standpoint, the Republic serial *Hawk of the Wilderness*). I once phoned Ed at his office, and when his secretary asked who was calling I replied, 'Herman Brix.' He knew it had to be me.

"Ed's definition of trivia focused on entertainment and sports, especially from the late '40s through the '50s, and excluded the purely factual matters he dismissed as 'minutiae.' As Ed explained, 'Who invented the pencil?' was minutiae; 'What was the name of Jack Benny's parrot?' was trivia.

"When Ed was features editor of *Spectator,* he somehow managed to add restaurant reviewing to his journalistic activities. Surely his most memorable review was of a long-defunct Manhattan establishment, Nando's Miramar Restaurant, whose service was, he wrote, as imaginative as Ray Felix in the pivot (fans of the late 1950s New York Knicks will recall the 6-foot-11-inch Felix as an awkward, undistinguished center).

"Ed told me a story about his year at NYU Law that seems to me to sum him up perfectly. At the beginning of the semester, one of his professors told the class not to back bench — the practice of sitting in the back of the room rather than in your assigned seat in order to avoid being called on. If you were unprepared to be called on, said the professor, simply let me know before the class begins and I won't embarrass you. One day, however, Ed was back benching and did not answer when the professor called his name. The professor recognized Ed and said, 'Mr. Goodgold, you know you should not be back benching. Why didn't you let me know before class started that you were unprepared today?' And Ed replied, 'Oh no, sir, you don't understand. Today I'm absent, tomorrow I'm unprepared.'"

I asked Arnie for a personal update too. Sadly, I don't have space to include it until my next column. But he sent a video: "At the risk of wearing out my welcome, here's a video of me playing. The two young kids playing guitar and fiddle have since graduated from the Berklee College of Music in Boston. I am the banjo player: bit.ly/3kRV2Wz."

Dan Waitzman GSAS'68 shared his impressive new video: "In my YouTube video, 'Reflections on Contemporary Musical Composition' (youtu.be/2b0fDixjEVA), I argue for the revival of older musical styles for use in contemporary musical composition, either 'out of the box,' or as points of departure for new styles. This is in addition to the YouTube videos of my compositions (mostly in electronic MIDI realizations, alas) and a few of my concert performances."

Just look Dan up on YouTube for his performance videos.

1966

Columbia College Today
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Tod Howard Hawks reached out: "I greatly enjoyed reading about a number of my classmates in the Fall 2021 issue, which has inspired me to contribute similarly. I have corresponded recently with **Ira Katznelson,** one of the many geniuses in our class. Ira was, as I'm sure most of you remember, a Euretta J. Kellett Fellow at Cambridge. I got to know him through Nacoms our senior year. He has held many august posts throughout his brilliant career, including his stellar tenure as interim provost of the University. **Alan Feldman** GSAS'69 contributed a poem to our Fall 2021 Class Notes, which has inspired me to do the same."

THOSE WHO RULE

We shall keep the poor poor.
We shall be on them like
a master's whip on the backs
of slaves; but they will not
know us: we are too far and
too close. We shall use the
patois of patriotism to patronize
them. We shall hide behind our
flags while we hold only one pole.
We shall have the poor fight our
wars for us, and die for us; and
before they die, they will kill for
us, we hope, enough. In peace,
we shall piecemeal them, and serve
them meals made of toxins and tallow.
For their labor, we shall pay them
slave wages; and all that we give,
we shall take back, and more, by
monumental scandals that subside
like day's sun at eventide. We shall
be clever, as ever, circumspect and
surreptitious at all times. We shall
keep them deluded with the
verisimilitude
of hope, but undermine always its
being. We shall infuse their lives
with fear and hate, playing one
race against another, one religion
against a brother's. Disaffection is
our key; but we must modulate our
efforts deftly, so the poor remain
frightened and angered, but always
blind and deaf and divided. And if,
perchance, one foments, we shall
seize the moment and drop his head
into his hands, even as he speaks.
This internecine brew we pour, therefore, into the poor to keep them drunk
with enmity and incapacitation! Ah,
eternal anticipation! Bottoms up,
old chaps! We, those who rule,
shall have them always in our laps.
We are, as it were, their salvation.

James Taylor writes: "Please tell **Chet Komarin** how much I liked reading his piece in the Fall 2021 column. I too came to Columbia from a small place: Dothan, Ala. The biggest place I had visited prior to my being deposited in Penn Station was Jacksonville, Fla., where my aunt lived.

"The academic environment was as challenging as anything I had encountered.

"I did become one of those doctors but only decided to do so the summer before senior year. I took all the pre-med courses that year.

"The memory of those four years remains a joy I visit often."

Robert Ready GSAS'70 also contacted *CCT*: "Robert Ready retired as professor emeritus of English at Drew University. He was NEH Distinguished Teaching Professor, the Winifred B. Baldwin Professor of Humanities and dean of the Caspersen School of Graduate Studies. His literary-critical work and his short fiction appeared in more than two dozen scholarly and creative writing journals. His novel, *Eck: A Romance,* was published in 2021. He is married to Susan M. Levin GSAS'74, retired professor of English and comparative literature at Stevens Institute of Technology. Their son, Jonathan, is professor of classical studies at the University of Michigan, and is married to Margaret Foster, associate professor of classical studies at Michigan. Their daughter, Freda GS'09, PS'14, is a general surgeon at the Navajo Reservation in Shiprock, N.M., married to Megan Whitley, an attorney at Littler Mendelson in Denver. Susan and Robert have four grandchildren, and they live in NYC and North Truro, Mass."

David F. Tilman reached out too: "Greetings to my friends and classmates! I was so pleased to see a good group from our class at the virtual reunion last spring. The Tilman family are all well and thriving. Avrum Michael SEAS'04, B.S., and NYU Stern School of Business, M.B.A. 2015, is a senior computer engineer for Bloomberg. Rabbi Howard is husband to his beloved Naomi, father to Micah Toby (4) and Sophie Daniela (2), and rabbi of Congregation Beth Israel, Scotch Plains, N.J. Alana is director of Sprout Brooklyn Day Camp, a dual language camp of the Young Judea movement. My beloved wife of more than 40 years, Ellen, retired as director of library services at Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel in Elkins Park, Pa., leaving to her successor an active, dynamic and innovative institution at a time when many synagogues are eliminating their library programs.

"In 2011 I retired as cantor and music director of Beth Sholom Congregation, the Frank Lloyd Wright Synagogue in Elkins Park, after 36 fulfilling and productive years, filled with life cycle events too numerous to count, bravado singing at Shabbat and holiday services, five choirs, magnificent choral and instrumental music and wonderful interpersonal relationships. I spent five years as adjunct associate professor at the H.L. Miller Cantorial School of the Jewish Theological Seminary. For two years I was consultant to the curator of the *Leonard Bernstein at 100 Centennial Exhibit* at the National Museum of American Jewish History. I am now in my 11th year as choral director and pastoral outreach professional at Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel of Elkins Park, where I conduct a 30-member volunteer and professional adult choir and spend significant time reaching out to the synagogue membership in need of counsel and friendship.

"In 2018 and 2019, I was music director for *Sing Hallelujah,* a mega concert of 175 singers drawn from Jewish and non-Jewish choirs in the Delaware Valley, on the stage of Verizon Hall in the Kimmel Center of Philadelphia. These two events each attracted 1,500 audience members. We were on our way to the third *Sing Hallelujah* concert in March 2020, when the Covid-19 pandemic exploded throughout the USA, necessitating the concert's postponement. Choral music activities throughout the world came to a silent halt. Choral singing was declared by medical and choral experts to be a major spreader of the insidious virus. Live interpersonal choral rehearsals were replaced by virtual choral activities. I prepared four virtual choral recordings, although several of my singers found the process too daunting and did not participate.

"During the pandemic I presented two virtual lectures, on the Bernstein centennial and on the 50th anniversary of *Fiddler on the Roof.* Both programs are filled with musical and video excerpts, and were well received. My Shir KI Choir returned to active rehearsals and public singing during the recent High Holiday season, fully masked and socially distanced from each other and from the congregation. The masks filtered out both viral particles and precise diction and initial and final consonants. We pray that we shall be able to sing in person and unmasked during the coming year.

"I was glad to learn that **David Gilbert** will soon be paroled. His tape, which we heard at a reunion, was both moving and very dramatic.

"My health is good, although I am afflicted with orthopedic issues. We pray for our good health and the good health of our families. I wish classmates and our families a joyous New Year during these difficult times."

At press time, *CCT* learned of the passing of **David S. Weissbrodt.** Read more online: strib.mn/3ckcvlt.

Share your news and updates with *CCT* for a future issue by email: cct@columbia.edu, or online via the Class Notes submission form: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

Our best to you in 2022.

Contact CCT

Update your address, email or phone; submit a Class Note, new book, photo, obituary or Letter to the Editor; or send us an email. Click "Contact Us" at **college.columbia.edu/cct.**

1967

REUNION 2022
JUNE 9–12
Reunion Contact
ccreunion@columbia.edu
Development Contact
ccfund@columbia.edu

Albert Zonana
azonana@me.com

We heard from a few classmates.

Leigh Dolin wrote: "When we moved to Burlington, Vt., and Montreal in 2018, our plan was to spend half the year in each place, as our son, daughter-in-law and three grandkids live in Montreal. Initially, that worked out fine, with uneventful border crossings. Then came Covid-19 and crossing the border became Mission Impossible. In June we had to do three Covid tests and a two-week quarantine before our long-awaited family reunion. In September, we had to do only one Covid test and no quarantine. We're anxiously awaiting the return of the good old days. Meanwhile, we're grateful for Zoom!"

Harold Koenigsberg GSAS'69: "My wife, Elizabeth, and I are doing well. Our daughter is a sophomore at Sarah Lawrence College. I do neuro-imaging research and treat patients as a professor of psychiatry at Mount Sinai."

Gary Breissinger: "I had a 32-year career at Procter & Gamble, serving in a number of executive positions including VP, U.S. sales; VP, Europe, Middle East and Africa sales; and VP, global customer business development. Following P&G, I spent 10 years as a senior advisor to the Boston Consulting Group. Now enjoying retirement and playing lots of golf in the Western North Carolina mountains."

Herb Broderick GSAS'78: "Happy to report that I am on sabbatical after teaching art for 43 years at CUNY Lehman — triple-vaxxed and hanging out in our house in Oyster Bay, Long Island. Hope to return to home base in Manhattan soon."

T. (Travis) Brown: "I work part-time as a geologist in the energy sector. Spending a bit more time with my hobbies of woodworking, fly fishing and gardening. Have had limited contact with classmates, but I am surviving the pandemic. Hope others are faring well, also."

Tony Greco GSAS'76, BUS'82: "I guess I'm a hard-core New Yorker, having lived in Manhattan with only brief interruptions for all my adult life. I still love it, along with my wife of 40 years, Celia Orgel. Our son Daniel is an associate professor of philosophy at Yale, and Celia and I enjoy weekly trips to Connecticut to help out and spend time with the grandkids, Ben (6) and Sam (4). The city is reviving as Covid restrictions ease, and we're looking forward to going to concerts and plays again, but I sorely miss Butler Library, still closed to alumni. I keep busy reading, playing chess (I used to be a rated expert but in my old age I've mostly been just a class A player)

and more than occasionally posting to my blog, Talking about Politics, at tony-greco.com. My readers include a number of College alumni, among them several classmates."

Charles Fisher: "Am alive and well in Florida on Singer Island in Palm Beach County. Wish all classmates the best."

Les Wandler: "Married and divorced twice. Expensive. Served as a lieutenant in the Navy in Vietnam. Worked in banking at NYC's Manufacturers Hanover. I was one of the founders of HSN, which was sold in 1993. I have done some cable television consulting since. I am now retired and have one son at Bank of New York. A stranger in a strange land today."

Tom Werman BUS'69: "Briefly: Two years at the Business School, one year at Grey Advertising in NYC, then 30 years in rock 'n' roll, first at CBS's Epic Records (with Gregg Geller '69) in NYC for eight years, and then as an independent producer. Moved to Los Angeles in 1978, stayed 23 wonderful years in Laurel Canyon, produced 52 albums, 20 of them gold or platinum, burned out big time, bought a farm in the Berkshires (bluest county in the bluest state in the country), a stone's throw from Tanglewood (coincidentally next door to Richard Taylor '68) and established a luxury B&B.

"After 20 years of inn-keeping (harder than it looks), I sold my record royalties and the farm, and we're renovating a wonderful house a mile down the road (love the town, love the neighborhood). Supply chain notwithstanding, we should be in by January.

"Still blissfully wed to Suky after 51 years, with three middle-aged children whom we see frequently, although our son is still in L.A. at Warner Music Group. Learning from my unpleasant year on Madison Avenue, I advised our kids to forget about what conventional wisdom advises them to do, and to do what they like doing best. Turned out to be good advice.

"We still see **David Zapp** LAW'70 and family, Hope Geller and Gregg Geller '69, Jonathan Brauer '69, Bob Merlis '69, not enough of Woody Lewis '69 or Phil Shopoff '66, and reminisce about The Walkers and the '60s with **Billy Schwartz** (aka Billy Cross), who lives in Denmark. I'll always remember my wonderful six years on Morningside Heights with great fondness. And considering the state of the union and the values of its citizens, I now fully understand why they call them the good old days."

Allen Spiegel: "Honestly, I have nothing much to report other than my joining our 55th Reunion Committee. I hope we will be able to enjoy the reunion in June live rather than via Zoom. I'm enjoying a 'deceleration' of my former activities since stepping down as medical school dean in 2018, and trying to take advantage of all a recovering NYC has to offer. Would be happy to see classmates living in or visiting Manhattan."

Bruce Kawin: "I taught English and film at the University of Colorado at Boulder 1975–2015. Previously taught at Wells College, UC Riverside, UC Santa Cruz and the American Film Institute. Now retired, still living in Boulder with my partner, retired psycholinguistics professor Lise Menn. Finally placed two books of poems, one, *Starting Over*, published by the now-deceased Les Gottesman '68, GSAS'69. Other books include *Telling It Again and Again; Mindscreen;* and *The Mind of the Novel.* Hoping to hear from old friends!"

Keith Cohen: "Since retiring from teaching comparative literature, I have been doing translations from the French to English. My translation *A History of Virility* was published by Columbia University Press. Currently, I am translating poems by Haitian writer Denizé Lauture."

Jesse Waldinger GSAS'69: "After a 40-year career in medical malpractice in the New York metropolitan area, I retired to the Berkshires in 2013 and write plays that are occasionally produced and also become staged readings directed by my wife, Barbara, whom I met in high school and dated throughout my time at Columbia. One of my earliest plays, *The Knights of Mary Phagan,* received its first staged reading at C.W. Post in 1983, when the head of the Theater Arts Department was none other than Stefan Rudnicki '66, who had directed me in a small role in the 1966 Varsity Show, *The Bawd's Opera,* by **Michael Feingold** and Bruce Trinkley '66, GSAS'68. At the 1966 Columbia reunion I reconnected with composer Trinkley, and we are working collaboratively on a musical rendition of *Rumpelstiltskin.* Rudnicki, a major audiobooks standout, was unable to attend that reunion. He played Horatio in The Columbia Players's 1966 production of *Hamlet,* in which I excelled as the second gravedigger. A couple of years ago I approached Jill Eikenberry after a production at the Berkshire Theatre Group in Stockbridge in which she starred with her husband, Michael Tucker. She had no memory of me, even though I was partly responsible for her character, Ophelia, being buried on consecrated ground.

"As an undergrad, I lived in Furnald Hall for four years. Dr. **Errol Dendy,** a neighbor for one of those years, and I now see each other socially; our wives have been friends since junior high school. I also stay in touch occasionally with my good friend **George Farkas,** who was my roommate during Freshman Week in New Hall in 1963. Likewise **Danny Raybin,** a friend of the family back then, with whom I drove to Montreal on a memorable weekend in June 1967 for Expo, returning (if I remember right) in time for graduation."

Be well, all of you, and do write. Please note my new email address, at the top of the column.

1968

Arthur Spector
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Greetings and salutations from Miami Beach. Heard from retired Judge **Peter Benitez** LAW'71. He sounds great, and is splitting his time between Tucson and the Hamptons. Sounds like good judgment. For years I used to run into him on the West Side. I believe Peter is one of our many swimmers.

I went to the Columbia-Penn Homecoming game expecting a win, again. The Lions did indeed win 23–14, and played great. I saw **Paul de Bary, Seth Weinstein, Art Kaufman, Tom Sanford** and Peter Hiebert '71 (no class with that class, but Peter is impressive and lives in Miami Beach, too). Columbia football of recent years has been great and should only get better. I am very interested in women's basketball, as I think the team is loaded with talent; I suspect Coach Megan Griffith '07 is among the finest in the country.

On a happy note, last summer I was in Saratoga for two months and was visited by Paul and his wife, Stefana. We had a great time. Also saw Bob Costa '67 and his wife, Joan. We had great Mexican food, and some good cheer.

Larry Borger wrote: "I live in mile-high Bisbee, Ariz. My wife, Jane, and I have seven dogs and cats. Most of our children and grands live about 200 miles up the road. Our old border-area mining town is relatively quiet and uncomplicated compared to Phoenix and Cooler. I find myself truly enjoying life and staying surprisingly busy. I play guitar and sing in a local band. We play a lot of country, old rock and folk."

Larry adds that he is a capable singer; as an aside, I always was a better shower singer than **Michael Newmark** and definitely better than Jonathan Schiller '69, LAW'73.

Larry continues: "I've been on a number of boards, and I still limp around the golf course. I am still a mediocre, yet enthusiastic carpenter."

He has written two books. One is about his four years with Columbia basketball; the other is more serious, about ill buddies. Larry adds that he is healthy but does a little less running, cycling and basketball. He also has a salute for **Bob Carlson** and his wife, Susan, for whom he and Jane have great affection for their longtime friendship.

At our next reunion, Larry needs to sing and bring books for the class!

John Odell writes: "I like to check in with alma mater at least once every 50 years, so here I am, long retired after some 25-odd years in the TV biz, partially overlapped with 12 years teaching broadcasting and video production at City College of San Francisco. I recently published a book, *Elmer & Virginia: A World War II Romance in Letters,* based on more than 700 pieces of correspondence between my parents 1939–44. They begin when both are 17-year-old high school graduates, and end when he returns from Europe a hero fighter pilot, and she's a reporter for a Long Island newspaper. The book was a finalist in the History: United States category for a 15th Annual National Indie Excellence Award, and garnered a four-of-four-star review by Online Book Club and a five-star review and gold medal from Literary Titan. Check out elmerandvirginiabook.

com, which features a 'jukebox' with tunes from the era."

Steve Ross GSAS'70, always charming and entertaining, has a great story about a woman from years ago. I am leaving it out so you can get it from him at the next reunion. He did write: "Starting junior year there were three Steve Rosses at Columbia College: me, Steven Jay Ross; Steven Joseph Ross '70 and Stephen Jay Ross '70. The Bursar's Office regularly screwed up our scholarships, and of course credits. And I got letters intended for one of them, from a girlfriend. Fast forward 53 years or so, I receive a registered letter informing me that I was being sued based on my role on the board of some company."

Of course he was not the Steve Ross. Our Steve Ross called one of the other Steve Rosses, a history professor at UCLA, to warn him. Our Steve reports that the other Steve had written a book (which he highly recommends) about Nazi penetration in Los Angeles before and after WWII, *Hitler in Los Angeles: How Jews Foiled Nazi Plots Against Hollywood and America,* about how a group of Jewish amateur spies foiled them. Our Steve said it reads like a spy novel.

He adds he is "doing well, working in the consulting world in information security and writing a column in a professional journal for 23 years on the topic. Travel, which has been an important part of my life, has been negated by the pandemic but now it is possible to go to Canada, where my wife and I have a second home. I encourage classmates who have an interest in wine tasting to take a look at my online magazine, Power Tasting - The Wine Tasting Experience."

Paul de Bary wrote a book on wine, as you might recall, and on the Core. Paul and Steve, bring wine and educate us more at our next reunion. They select, we drink and they can comment as we imbibe. Also, Steve, it's useful to speak French, as you do, I gather.

I heard from the Hawaiian surfer once upon a time, **Leigh-Wai Do.** He is an activist there and aspires to do more to have China and America become friendlier. He says, "Aloha, Art!"

Look up the many meanings of "Aloha."

Aloha back to him and to all of you.

I was so happy to see so many at Homecoming. Now that we have a winning program, I hope to see more of you. Next year should be even better. Our QB is very good, and the team has lots of talent. I did get to chat with Bob Kraft '63, who is generous and gracious — and from Boston, like me. He calls me "Ahtha."

I was also pleased to see the co-chair of the University Trustees, Lisa Carnoy '89. She is an outstanding chair! Not only did I see Lisa, but also I was so pleased to say hello to Dean James J. Valentini, who was greeting students and alums and being thoughtful and just marvelous. He has done an outstanding job as dean. A gold-medal winner, for sure!

I hope you are well and getting out in this locked-down world.

1969

Nathaniel Wander
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Irving Ruderman writes "Homecoming turned out to be a beautiful, sunny day," and he shared a table with "**John Lombardo, Ta Li SEAS'69,** who came in from Denver; **Alan Silberstein SEAS'69;** and **Rod Reef SEAS'69.**" They "reminisced about our days in school, accomplishments and the loss of **Joe Materna,** a regular at Homecoming, who was so proud that his three daughters graduated from the College." Irv adds: "The football team had a good day too, defeating Penn 23–14, upping their record for the season to 4–1."

David Sokal cofounded the nonprofit Male Contraception Initiative, which "supports the research and development of male birth control methods," declaring "Reproductive Autonomy for All" after stepping down from a position in medicine and public health at UNC. He writes: "After retiring from paid employment … I am now doing low-profile volunteer work with Citizens' Climate Lobby. I'm hopeful that I'm contributing in a small way to slowing climate change." He asks others to join in emailing the White House re: a plan for carbon tax/dividends (citizensclimatelobby.org/white-house). David reports, "My wife, Mary Lacombe, and I are relatively healthy for our age and enjoying life."

Frank Eld writes: "After retirement 10 years ago, I began traveling throughout the upper United States and Canada documenting original Finnish log construction, [which] led to my first book, *Finnish Log Construction—The Art.* Since then I have been a Finlandia Foundation National Lecturer of The Year, involved with various projects and Finnish organizations.

"A milestone was reached last summer when the Kalmar Nyckel Foundation opened a permanent exhibit I created at the site of the 1638-founded New Sweden Colony. (The Foundation has replicated the *Kalmar Nyckel,* which brought the Swedes and Finns to the colony.) The exhibit explains the involvement of the Forest Finns, who were conscripted as settlers for the colony and the unique style of log construction they introduced to the American landscape. The ribbon-cutting was held at the Grand Gala on September 18, and included Delaware dignitaries, the Swedish ambassador and the Finnish Political Counsel."

Edward Hyman is "now well into my tenure as scientific director and chief forensic officer of the National Institute of Forensic and Behavioral Sciences, having landed there when Gerald Ford was president. I will be 75 on October 25, 2022, and envision an early retirement!"

As a clinical psychologist in practice in Sausalito, Ed's work as a forensic examiner has recently taken him to Cheyenne, Wyo.; Billings, Mont.; and soon to "a winter working vacation in Maui [with] my wonderful wife, Dr. Deborah McDonald.

"My older boy, Dr. Cameron McDonald-Hyman Ph.D. [is taking over leadership of] the Blazar Laboratory [at the University of Minnesota] … one of the leading immunology labs in the world."

Cameron and his wife, Dr. Elizabeth Jarrett M.Ph., recently presented Ed with their second child, grandson Graham Jarrett.

Ed continues, "My younger son, Devon McDonald-Hyman, is in Hollywood and a documentarian, filmmaker, visual artist and assistant to Professor Stephen Prina, director of the Harvard Film and Visual Arts Studio and Laboratory in Los Angeles." Following undergraduate "degrees at the USC School of Cinematic Arts and the USC Roski School of Fine Arts [Devon] went to Harvard for graduate work."

Having "survived five heart attacks and two cancer surgeries, all is well" now, Ed observes. "My mistletoe was neatly placed on a glorious bed of white, but in this case white Maui sand."

Alan Senauke has "been in Berkeley from the early 1980s, living as a resident Zen Buddhist priest at Berkeley Zen Center since 1986. After the death of my teacher, Sojun Mel Weitsman Roshi, in early 2021, I was appointed abbot of BZC. My wife, Laurie, is also a Zen teacher. We have two wonderful children, Silvie (30) and Alexander (27).

"Social and political values and action run deeply through my life, intertwined with my practice of Buddhism. In 2007, I began a modest nonprofit, Clear View Project, providing Buddhist-based support and training where we can, with a focus on the democracy movement in Burma, human and political rights for ex-untouchable communities in India and resources for prisoners in the United States.

"In other realms, I continue to be a student and performer of American vernacular musics, though playing closer to home these days and not touring. My latest book, *Turning Words,* will be published in late 2022."

Hilton Obenzinger, whom Alan notes is a close friend (along with **Rick Winston, David Anderson, Mark Rudd** and **Peter Clapp**), also has a recent book: *Witness 2017–2020,* which has been garnering positive attention.

Jonah Raskin — who relates to Hilton as one of the "veterans of the Sixties who have gone on dreaming the dream" — praises his work (bit.ly/2Z5qg4L), as did the now-deceased poet Diane di Prima, who called Hilton "funny, surreal, radical … the American Jonathan Swift" (ymlp.com/zzPaQT).

Andrei "Andy" Markovits BUS'71, GSAS'76's recent "memoir, *The Passport as Home: Comfort in Rootlessness* … dedicates a chapter to his experiences at Columbia … which have shaped every aspect of his life." Andy immigrated to the United States at 11, but only managed to spend subsequent summers on the Upper West Side. He fell in love with Columbia; the Butler Library reading

room became his home base and remains a touchstone.

"When it came time to apply to universities, the College was obviously my first choice." Andy was "offered nearly three semesters of advanced standing by virtue of my Viennese secondary education." What Andy calls his then "arrogance" led him to "finish [the remaining] five semesters in four, certainly the greatest regret of my academic life — perhaps one of the gravest in my life as a whole." Could he do it over, he would have been "a full-fledged undergraduate for four years, experiencing college life at one of the greatest academic institutions in the world!"

Since 1999, Andy has held dual appointments at University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, as the Karl W. Deutsch Collegiate Professor of Comparative Politics and German Studies and Arthur F. Thurnau Professor of German, Sociology and Political Science, having "taught at Wesleyan, Boston University and UC Santa Cruz … [and] chaired two study groups, and was founder and editor of *German Politics and Society*" at Harvard. He has also been "visiting professor at universities in Germany, Austria, Switzerland and Israel… Still, I will always wear my Columbia gear with pride and joy! Go Lions!"

Read more about Andy in CCT Online's Take Five: college.columbia.edu/cct/latest/take-five/columbia-shaped-every-aspect-professors-life.

James Gagne had been retiring from a long career as a specialist in addiction medicine and pain control mostly in southern California when cancer recurred and he was given a prognosis of only a few weeks. At the late October date of this writing, he is still hanging in with us. Mary Hardy, his wife of 32 years, is also a physician. Of at least three other College classmates who graduated with Jim from the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in 1973, **Neal Flomenbaum** is flourishing and active in NYC medicine, **Joseph "Joe" Okon** died early, at 61, on May 6, 2011, and as I have learned extremely belatedly, German Maisonet '68, a good friend during my early Columbia years, considerably preceded Joe in death.

German, a beautiful soul, was the first openly gay man I ever knew, having been raised in the "shelter" of working-class Jewish Brooklyn. I met him through my roommate **David Powell**, who had likewise come to NYC from San Juan, Puerto Rico. German not only opened my eyes to matters of sexual preference, but also to race in the Caribbean: Afro-Latino German had a sister as blue-eyed and blond-haired as Tom Sawyer's Becky.

After medical school, German went on to specialize in HIV/AIDS medicine, notably in the California prison system. He campaigned for humane treatment of infected prisoners and for long-range planning to rein in the uncontrolled spread of HIV through prisons nationwide. He was also a key figure in Los Angeles Act Up. German died on August 22, 1996, of complications from AIDS.

Michael Braudy informs us that his close friend **Stuart Scott** recently died. Stuart's friend/collaborator Counterpunch reporter Robert Hunziker has written, "Stuart's bold commitment to a sustainable planet and equitable allocation of resources has inspired people throughout the world." Read more online: facingfuture.earth/the-legacy-of-stuart-scott.

[Editor's note: See "Obituaries."]

1970

Leo Kailas
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We are all still dealing with Covid-19 but each day brings more reasons to be optimistic that we will return to normalcy (whatever that is) in 2022.

Professor **Paul Starr** writes: "Together with historian Julian Zelizer, Paul Starr has edited a volume of essays about one of Columbia's leading figures in the 1960s, Daniel Bell: *Defining the Age: Daniel Bell, His Time and Ours* (February 2022)."

Professor **David Lehman** is a prolific writer, editor of *The Oxford Book of American Poetry* and editor-in-chief of the Best American Poetry blog. David also writes in an informed and entertaining manner about movies: "For *The American Scholar,* I write a regular column on movies. Here is a link to my latest 'Talking Pictures' feature, about Humphrey Bogart and, among his movies, *The Maltese Falcon* and *The Big Sleep:* bit.ly/30DhTO7. I hope you like it. If you do, please feel free to leave a comment!"

David also did an ode to Gene Kelly, focusing on "the four great movie musicals Gene Kelly made in the early 1950s: bit.ly/3Fvw0nH."

Dov Zakheim writes thought-provoking columns for *The Hill* and also reports: "I recently published my fourth book, *The Prince and the Emperors: The Life and Times of Rabbi Judah and the Prince,* twin biographies of the rabbinic leader Rabbi Judah the Prince and the Emperors Septimius Severus and his son Caracalla. My grandson Max won a basketball scholarship to Bryant University (Division I) — too bad it wasn't Columbia!

"My report on Dr. **Paul Rosen**, an old and dear friend: I have known Paul since we both attended Bronx Science. Paul went on to NYU to a graduate program sponsored by the NSF to study science and to help improve science teaching in the NYC public school system, helping to identify minority students with special talents for careers in science. Additionally, Paul taught in the nursing division at NYU. Moved by the tragic murder of a nursing student, Paul left the academic world and spent 10 years in law enforcement, including on the joint fugitive task force…. He was involved in some of the major arrests of multiple felons in the 1970s and '80s before he was badly wounded during an arrest and found himself in physical rehab. While there, he was encouraged at 40 to apply to medical school. He was admitted to UNC on a full scholarship and the rest is history. Paul was at the WTC as a doctor to help with volunteer efforts from the fall of the second tower. He was there to help with the AIDS epidemic as a resident in lower Manhattan and more recently to help with the Covid-19 pandemic. He has published multiple articles on the integration of mental health and primary care medicine. He teaches residents and medical students. He is still working hard in some of the poorest neighborhoods of NYC as a dedicated physician."

Ralph Allemano wrote: "We've come through the Covid pandemic more or less unscathed but leading much more restricted lives. Lockdown was frustrating and tedious, especially as travel was not allowed. We can travel about the United Kingdom now but travel abroad is still problematic and risky. I can visit daughters and son in London now but eldest daughter in Los Angeles has been out of reach. Fortunately, she was planning to come to the U.K. in December! Still enjoying retirement and running. Did the Seven Hills of Edinburgh Challenge in July (more than 14 miles!) and the Great North Run in Newcastle in August (half-marathon). Living history events have been on hold for 18 months but we squeezed one event in at the end of August: a Roman army display on Hadrian's Wall. We hope 2022 will see a return to a 'normal' schedule of events!"

Leonard Levine GSAS'77 reports: "On New Year's Day 2018, I retired from about 33 years of service with the federal government, mostly as a computer scientist with the Defense Information Systems Agency. For the last six years we were located at Fort Meade, not far from Baltimore. I worked on international standards, including the Unified Architecture Framework (for IT Systems), accepted by the International Organization for Standardization… After retirement, I began auditing a couple of graduate school classes in political science and systems engineering at nearby George Mason University. Plans for retirement activities were shelved by treatment that summer of a serious colon cancer. Skipping over chemotherapy and two long hospital plus rehabilitation stays, I survived the pandemic by isolating at home. I did regret we could not hold our planned 50th reunion on the Morningside campus… I have been active with the Jewish community, particularly the Chabad Jewish Center of Tysons Corner, Va."

My friend **Michael Aeschliman** GSAS'91 alerted me to his article on Professor Edward Said: "How Edward Said Reoriented the West: bit.ly/3FCPXJD."

Michael continues: "I had Said as a graduate student. I wasn't alone in finding him arrogant and unsympathetic, though he was of course also brilliant. In recent months I have been proud of CC graduates such as Rep. Peter Meijer '12 of Michigan (anti-Trump Republican), Princeton professor Sean Wilentz '72 (critique of clear untruths in The 1619 Project) and journalist Abigail

Shrier '00, author of the brilliant investigative book *Irreversible Damage: Teenage Girls and the Transgender Craze Seducing Our Daughters* (June 2021), which barely got published in the USA and was ignored by the 'mainstream media' but in its subsequent UK publication won a 'Best Book of 2021' from *The London Times* and a 'Book of the Year' from *The Economist*."

Lewis Siegelbaum relocated from East Lansing, Mich., to Pasadena, Calif., in November 2020. Retired after 35 years of teaching history at Michigan State, he says he is finding his feet anew and, at least for the time being, somewhat lonely. Any classmates in the vicinity? Drop him a line: siegelba@msu.edu.

Geoff Zucker reports: "Having retired from medical practice in gastroenterology in 2018, and my wife's retirement the following year as professor of nursing, we've come full circle, moving back to Northport, N.Y. (Long Island). We're seven minutes away from our 3-year-old grandson and look forward to watching him grow, mature and learn to be a fine young person. I've yet to decide whether to start volunteering or get a NYS license and work, but probably the former."

Martin Newhouse GSAS'79 writes: "I retired on October 1 from my position as president of the New England Legal Foundation."

My friend **Frank Motley** LAW'74 writes: "Six years retired from Indiana University, I am snowbirding between Bloomington and West Palm Beach, playing golf and chess with my brother, Thomas Motley '76, and reading all the CC and Humanities books I skipped reading during the many Columbia strikes and protests ... Still reeling from the loss of so many (**Zach Husser, Bruce Fogel, Merville Marshall,** Eugene Buckingham '71, **Jim McMillian** and **Heyward Dotson**)."

Bill Schur wrote: "Having resisted the temptation to resume my career as an attorney after retiring from AT&T at the end of 2013, I am now a member of the City of Fort Worth's Building Standards Commission and the City's Redistricting Task Force, both unpaid positions. Since 2017, I have pursued a new hobby, nature photography. I spend an inordinate amount of time photographing insects, plants, birds and other living things around my neighborhood and uploading my photos to inaturalist.org and bugguide.net."

Carl Shubs sent a first-time report: "This last year has certainly had its ups and downs. First, and wearing my psychologist hat, is that my book *Traumatic Experiences of Normal Development: An Intersubjective, Object Relations Listening Perspective on Self, Attachment, Trauma, and Reality*, was published in 2020. Wearing my other hat, that of a contemporary fine art photographer, the first piece of good news is that one of my photos was invited to be in the USA Exhibition of the 20th Japan International Art Exchange Exhibition, in The Chiba City Museum of Art, neighboring Tokyo. The next piece of good news, again wearing my photography hat, is that I had my first solo exhibition, online, via Dab Art and shown through Artsy. The downside of that is that the pandemic limited the exhibition to be online only instead of also being in a physical space, which again limited the attendance. Best to everyone!"

Hoyt Hilsman LAW'75 reports: "I continue to divide my time between writing and politics. I recently completed the pilot for a TV detective series set in Hawaii and am working on a screenplay about Donald Trump. … In my spare time, I'm working on improving my tennis game, and visiting my son and daughter-in-law, who live nearby. My wife, Nancy Turner, after retiring from teaching, is bumping up her career as an artist and critic. Travel plans largely on hold but hope springs eternal! Best to all classmates."

Peter Joseph gave this update: "Having retired 10 years ago after a 35-year career in emergency medicine, I continue my efforts addressing global warming by leading the Marin County, Calif., chapter of Citizens' Climate Lobby. I'm liaison to my member of Congress, have recruited numerous members of the advisory board, written three winning proposals in the MIT Climate CoLab contests for a US carbon price and remain active at a national level — even during the pandemic. I've also funded a Lamont fellowship in climate science. I was thrilled to participate in the clinical trials of the Pfizer Covid-19 vaccine, and received my booster as part of the ongoing study. Our three sons are doing well, and our three grandchildren are thriving in San Francisco and San Rafael. We see them frequently, and they're a motivation to work harder to preserve a livable world. I miss New York and look forward to visiting when the coast is clear."

1971

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The 50th reunion is over, and we look forward to reunion number 51 and beyond.

Robert Mayer reports that his 2020 summer camping trip was postponed because of Covid-19, but the tradition was resumed in summer 2021 with **Larry Teitelbaum,** Elliot Cahn '70 and his brother Alan Cahn PS'62. **Larry Masket** however, deferred participation this summer. Larry retired from the practice of medicine after working for Kaiser for most of his career, and is apparently getting enough nature having become "a gentleman farmer," tending his garden in the Sonoma Valley and enjoying his wine collection.

Rob also stays in touch with **John Jaeger, Lloyd Emanuel** and **Phil Nord** GSAS'82. John and I both played basketball in high school for Larry Teitelbaum's brother-in-law, the Columbia legend, Stanley Felsinger '66.

Speaking for myself, as I age, life's strands twist and twine together more and more. **John Jaeger** is also in contact with my baseball teammate **Paul Armstrong** SEAS'73, whose wife went to high school with John and me many years ago. It is more than 50 years since we graduated from college. Wow. One last set of Columbia memories from Rob: The West End and Mama Joy's. It forces to ask you the age-old late-night question: Mama Joy's or Ta-Kome subs: Which was your go-to eats? Similar question with The West End or the Gold Rail: Where to drink?

Howard Selinger reports that his computer had trouble connecting so he missed out on the virtual reunion, although he still wants to connect with classmates. He remembers shooting baskets in the old gym with **Ron Rosenberg.** He also reminisces of his adventure in collegiate sports, the golf team, where he played the number 2 position. To quote him, "I got my ass kicked." He remembers the contrast of carrying his golf bag back to campus during the Spring 1968 protests; perspective and point of view are everything.

I remember Howard as the voice of Columbia sports along with Jim Miller '70, who lived in our off-campus apartment my senior year, and James Goldman '70, who became a news anchor on television in Philadelphia.

On graduation, Howie chose to earn a Ph.D. in clinical psychology. He based his decision on the values he absorbed and observed during those turbulent years on campus. We all learned that making a difference in people's lives was an ultimate goal. He earned his degree at the University of Connecticut and interned in the Denver public health system. Having only lived in New York and New Jersey prior to moving to Denver, Colorado offered a new life experience that he grabbed. He has lived there since 1975. Howie remains committed to his work because of the emotional reward in helping a person recover from their crises in life. Fifty years later he is still on the job. For relaxation, he plays golf in local tournaments and on worldwide trips — Scotland, Ireland and England. His wife, Marilyn, tags along. He has visited almost every major golf resort in the United States. Howie wants to give a shoutout to Dr. **Neal Rosen,** his buddy from Furnald Hall, but of greater importance, Neal put together a team of oncologists at

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Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, where he is a prominent researcher. That team saved Howie's wife's life when she developed a head and neck cancer.

As I previously noted, life's strands are twisting more and more as I age. We were seeds of ivy planted in the fertile soil of Columbia College. We grow up the wall of life, aging as we go. Our lives intertwine, supporting each other. We make up the Class of 1971.

David Josephson '63, GSAS'72 replied to my question about a 13th floor on the top of Carman Hall. His class was the first to live in "New Hall." It was not even named yet. In fact, it was not ready for occupancy when they arrived on campus in September 1959. He remembers living in suite 1304; however, he cannot confirm whether the elevators had a 13th-floor button. Of greatest note, and spoiler alert to all Jets fans, stop reading at this point and skip to the end. His suitemates were Marvin Rosen '63, Michael Rothenberg '63 and Robert K. Kraft '63. David is a professor emeritus of music at Brown.

Several classmates offered condolences to **Rich Milich**'s and **Joey Rotenberg**'s families. I received a "Thank You" from Barbara Rosenzweig Rotenberg BC'73. She wrote, "… my husband lived on the Upper West Side, but was a regular at the JTS dining hall, especially after we met in 1970. Joey attended NYU Law School and earned both a J.D. and an LLM in tax law. He practiced law for only a short time and joined his father as an investment advisor. He retired from Morgan Stanley as a senior VP in August 2020."

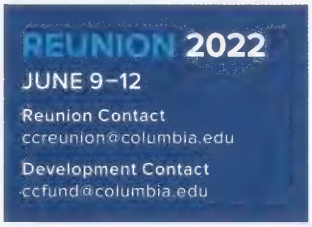
Joey and Barbara married in 1972 and raised five children while living in Teaneck and New Milford, N.J. In 2017 Joey published a book of short stories, *Timeless Travels: Tales of Mystery, Intrigue, Humor and Enchantment.* He was in the process of a second book of short stories at the time of his death. His family cherishes his many accomplishments including using the knowledge gained as a member of the Columbia ice hockey team to coach his children's hockey and baseball teams. He looked forward to coaching his grandchildren, but unfortunately, his to-do list remains unfinished.

As a class we are reaching retirement and have the wisdom that age brings. We should share our experience and continue our common education. Our unique enlightenment to life during our college days should cause us to support each other. We have a duty to ourselves to stay in touch and let each other know where life has led us.

Next issue is only five months away, so now is the time to send me an email: l.a.preschel@gmail.com.

Be well, be safe and keep growing up the wall of life, learning every day.

1972



Paul Appelbaum
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As I write this, Morningside Heights is once again full of students, with a full array of classes and extracurricular activities. Most everyone is vaccinated and masked indoors. One could feel the neighborhood begin to hum again as streams of cars unloaded students and their essentials when the term began last summer. We're all hoping — as you are — that this trend toward normality will continue as vaccination and continued caution bring the pandemic under control.

From a different campus, **Rick Danheiser** reports, "My two-year term as elected chair of the MIT faculty ended last July. The advent of Covid-19 early in my term certainly made it an interesting two years. I am now happy to be able to focus my full attention once again on research and teaching as the A C Cope Professor of Chemistry." Rick earned a Ph.D. at Harvard, joined the MIT faculty and has been teaching and doing research in organic chemistry there ever since.

Steven Hirschfeld PS'83 continues his work with the National Institutes of Health, the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences and private sector therapy development, "with the understanding that to keep up with the rest of the household requires energy and really advanced project management and skills."

Like so many of us, he's been working from home during the pandemic, along with his wife and his son, Josh.

Steven continues: "[W]hat has kept us all so productive during the pandemic is that we realize that we live in our own 'Blue Zone' [places with clusters of centenarians, marked by supportive relationships, purposeful lives and healthy lifestyles], with our garden and a sense of purpose, and that we really like being with each other. We look forward to the day when we can return to having guests and in-person social occasions; we find that remote working can be positive and functional, and remote visiting is better than losing contact but really not a substitute for personal interaction."

Hope you're all planning to come back to see Morningside Heights for yourself for our 50th reunion this spring. (Would you believe The West End is now Hex & Co., a gaming café?) Stay tuned — more to come from the Alumni Office.

1973

Barry Etra
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Not much action this time. Keep them cards and letters a-comin'.

James "Jim" Thomashower was honored with the Distinguished Service Award by the American Guild of Organists, of which he's been executive director since 1998. Jim previously was executive VP of the National Society of Accountants. He and his wife, Penny Brickman, live in Garrison, N.Y., and have one daughter.

Louis Erlanger wrote in, saddened by the death of **Phil Schaap.** "Phil was a big influence in my life … I was a blues fan, and when Phil began booking jazz at The West End I spent many nights there watching the acts he brought in. … We became friends, and he befriended my band, The Sting Rays (which was mostly Columbia students). He financed our 45 RPM recording on his label."

Phil kept Lou on track when he contemplated changing fields, always pursuing his lifelong mission. He will be more than missed.

[Editor's note: See "Obituaries."]

That's all ye wrote, fellas. Stay safe.

1974

Fred Bremer
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Has anyone else been offended by the FDA's classification of those over 65 as "the elderly"? Makes us seem to be washed-up geezers. Readers of this column during the last five years have seen evidence that certainly belies that label.

Further supporting this is the recently publicized 2018 study in *The New England Journal of Medicine*. This study found that the most productive age in a person's life is when they are 60–80. For example, they say this age span has the largest number of Nobel Prize winners and CEOs of Fortune 500 companies. (I don't recall seeing any classmates drooling, but I imagine there are some who, when they see a fetching young lady, do try the classic line from *Laugh-In*: "Want a Walnetto?") We are smack in the middle of this age range; make the most of it!

Before delving into some of the recent forays of our small group of viral guys, I must report that our group is two smaller. Within little more than a week last September, two of our own passed away.

First came news that **Chris Hansen** had succumbed to ALS in London on September 3, 2021. After 21 years in New York, Chris moved to London in 1994 and was a software testing professional until he retired in 2009. He was active in the Church of England. where he became the Lay Chair of the Deanery. He joined the Freemasons and was a founding member of the Columbia University Freemason Lodge. Chris leaves behind his husband, Tan Wai-Liang, with whom he had shared 23 years of companionship, including 16 years of marriage.

[Editor's note: See "Obituaries."]

Then came word from **Patrick Dowd** (now living in Eugene, Ore.) that his Columbia roommate and good friend, **Brian Phillips,** had died on September 13, 2021, of a progressive neurological disease. Brian lived with his wife, Siripan, in a small town southeast of Bangkok. After graduating from the College with a degree in philosophy, Brian earned a law degree from the University of Washington in

1979 and founded Spaulding & Phillips, a law firm in Everett, Wash. He also worked for the United Nations in Eastern Europe. Brian spoke fluent Thai and taught contract law at Bangkok University. In retirement Brian was part of an actors group and also was a stand-up comedian. Says Patrick, "Brian had a great sense of humor, but was also well-read and thoughtful. I miss him dearly."

Albie Hecht (who lives in Montclair, N.J.) is the chief content officer at pocket.watch, whose website describes its business as "a digital-first studio building franchises for the next generation of families. We transform material from the top-performing family YouTube channels into multi-category global franchises." Albie writes, "I always had confidence that our show *Ryan's Mystery Playdate* would be a hit, but I never thought we would have produced 90 episodes in two and a half years." The shows can be seen on Nickelodeon.

An email came in from **David Katz** (who lives in Waltham, Mass.) giving us an update on what he has been up to in the last few decades. After graduation he went to Oxford on a Euretta J. Kellett Fellowship. After completing a Ph.D. there, David was offered teaching positions at Columbia and Tel Aviv University. He writes, "Somehow going back to New York was going backward, so I set off for a new adventure in Israel." David taught there 41 years until he hit the mandatory retirement age. Fortunately, his wife, Amy Singer, was offered a chair in Islamic studies at Brandeis, and David was invited to join her. So now he is director of the History of Ideas program at Brandeis and a member of the history department. He adds, "Best of all, there is no compulsory retirement age, so I hope to carry on for years to come."

Writing in for what he says is only the second time in 47 years, **Vince Marchewka** was motivated by a note in a recent column about how the pandemic had postponed the weddings of some of our kids. His youngest daughter, Katie, was supposed to have a large NYC wedding in May 2020, but Vince says this ended up being a simple ceremony in Chicago attended only by their two best friends. Vince has been working for Mizzuho Securities in Manhattan for a number of years, but retreated to work from home starting in March 2020. He says, "As a three-time cancer survivor, I had to be very careful of this unexpected plague. There is no retirement in sight."

Having grown up in California, **Peter Sullivan** and his wife, Mary Krueger BC'74, have moved from New York City to Santa Barbara. Part of their motivation was to be near their first grandchild, Piper (daughter of their daughter, Hilary '07, who lives in nearby Los Angeles). Being free of his duties and travel demands at his former law firm (Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher), Peter says his retirement days are filled with a lot of biking, reading and exploring the area.

We got an update on another recent retiree, **Tom Sawicki** JRN'77 (who lives in Jerusalem). He tells us his son, Ariel, is an advisor to the minister of energy, where he works on Israel's energy policy. Ariel's brother, Amitai, is a physician in the internal medicine department at the Sheba Medical Center in Israel. Both boys are each parents to two kids. This gives Tom four grandkids to spoil during his retirement from the American Israel Political Affairs Committee.

There you have it. We mourn the loss of two of classmates, but celebrate the births of new members of the Class of '74 family and the new adventures in the lives of other classmates. Good or bad, keep sending in news on yourself and classmates with whom you are in contact.

1975

Randy Nichols
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Jeff Schnader sent an update on his first novel, *The Serpent Papers*. In the Spring/Summer 2021 issue he wrote that he was looking for an agent and publisher. Success!

Jeff writes: "I have signed a contract with The Permanent Press for publication in January 2022. The book takes place at Columbia University 1971–72, during the campus demonstrations against the Vietnam War. No novel has been written about these protests (*The Strawberry Statement* was nonfiction and about 1968). The Vietnam War is still the defining event of our generation. It created a rift between those who fought and those who protested — a rift that this novel aims to heal with rapprochement. *The Serpent Papers* was a short-listed finalist in the Blue Moon Novel Competition 2021 and has received rave pre-publication reviews (see jschnaderauthor.com/author-bio for reviews, a synopsis of the book and a link to the publisher's website). The book should be of great interest to the classes at Columbia that lived through these times, i.e., the Classes of 1972–75."

Send me your news for a future column! Please use the email at the top of the column or the Class Notes webform (college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note).

Photos and captions should be submitted directly to *CCT* using the Class Notes photo webform (college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo).

Best wishes for the New Year!



From left, Jim Bruno '76, Jim Berquist '76 and Ken Howitt '76 enjoyed Homecoming on October 16.

1976

Ken Howitt
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The turntable has Arthur Rubinstein performing Chopin's Nocturnes. I am writing this column after a long weekend of celebrating a football road victory (a shutout) at Dartmouth and I need to calm down. Chopin usually does the trick! So many accomplishments: first time Dartmouth was shut out in a decade, first Columbia shutout in 12 years and the first Columbia shutout of Dartmouth since 1944 — wow! Of course, you are reading this column long after the football season's conclusion, but it still deserves a big shoutout.

I received a few emails as a result, from **Nick De Monico, Richard Cohen** and **Tom Motley,** who were all equally impressed. Unfortunately, due to travel plans, I won't see Nick and **Bryan Alix** at the Yale Bowl, as I have in the past. I must admit that if Columbia wins, I might be going to Ithaca for the last game of the year, which I will write about in the Spring/Summer 2022 issue, when I finally thaw out.

The same group above was on an email chain started by **Terry Corrigan** LAW'81 when he notified us of the Columbia vs. Yale fall golf match at Saint Andrews Country Club in Hastings-on-Hudson, N.Y., which celebrated the 125th anniversary of the first intercollegiate golf match, in 1896. The article on that celebration is in *Sports Illustrated*: bit.ly/3oKcY6p.

I then sent that article to my college roommate, **Dave Reed,** who was the golf team captain during our senior year. So, that leads me to a great update. Dave and his wife, Anne, have a granddaughter, Madeline, born in September 2020!

Moving back to football, Homecoming 2021 was terrific, with a win over Penn. Did some serious tailgating with the Jims — **Jim Berquist** and **Jim Bruno** — before heading to the tent and running into **Jonathan Margolis,** who kept his promise from a June email that he would be there. See the nearby photo!

Last summer, **Hasan Bazari** GSAS'79 and his wife, Wendy, came to New York to visit his daughter in Queens. Before going to Queens, they stopped at The Hungarian Pastry Shop, where they met Patsy Geisler GSAS'79, from the Dean of Students Office back in the day, and had a great afternoon of conversation, catchup news and terrific memories.

Frank Jacobyansky sent in this great story. Like many of us, Jake has done interviews for Admissions with high school students through the

Alumni Representative Committee since our graduation.

He writes: "During the mid-'80s through the mid-'90s I did off-site interviews for Columbia applicants; probably 40. Only a very few attended. Recently, at the end of one of my workdays — I am a dentist in Normalville, Pa. — my receptionist told me someone had stopped to say hello. It was a young man (at least 20 years younger than I) who came up to me and said, 'You probably don't remember me. I'm Ben.'

"It turns out that I had interviewed him in 1995 and gave him a glowing report. He graduated from the College in 2000 and is in the midst of a successful career as a hedge fund manager in the south of France. I saved my admissions evaluation on him, and it turned out to be very prescient. He told me that I had changed his life, although I had very little to do with it. I think each one of us should get to hear this once in a lifetime. I practice full time in a small town, busier than ever, and plan to work, I hope, 10 more years. I am close to Frank Lloyd Wright's Fallingwater, so if anyone is visiting it, stop in and say hi."

Another update came from **Gara LaMarche:** "I stepped down from my post as president of The Democracy Alliance at the end of June, and for the first time in more than 40 years I am not running or helping to run an organization. It feels pretty good! I've really loved my leadership positions through the years in human rights organizations and philanthropies, but there is a big dividend in time and stress in moving away from leadership.

"I'm hardly retired, and diving into a series of new organizational relationships. I am a senior fellow at the CUNY Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership at City College, where I teach courses on leadership and human rights, and where I am helping to build a social justice leadership center. I've also joined The Raben Group in Washington, D.C., as a senior advisor and work on a range of issues, from judicial nominations to philanthropy. I'm also helping the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights as a senior advisor during its leadership transition, and working with Encore.org as a senior fellow, exploring intergenerational connections in the social justice world. I've been appointed a visiting fellow of The Council of Independent Colleges, and I have a bunch of other writing and consulting projects and still serve on a number of nonprofit and foundation boards, including as chair of The New Press. In January I'll spend three weeks in Abu Dhabi at NYU's campus there teaching a course on philanthropy.

"As if that's not enough change, in February 2021 we bought a house in Stonington, Conn., five miles from where I grew up, and have spent most of our time there during the pandemic. Around the same time, in March 2021, our fourth grandchild and first granddaughter, Phoebe, was born. All in all, a great time in our lives."

Rich Scheinin JRN'78 checked in from New Mexico to reminisce about Phil Schaap '73, the WKCR jazz icon. [Editor's note: See "Obituaries."] That led to an exchange of emails with **Joe Graif** BUS'78, **Fred Kameny** and **Rich Rohr.** If you get a chance, read this amazing interview from April 2021, when Phil was recognized by the National Endowment of the Arts with an A.B. Spellman NEA Jazz Masters Fellowship for Jazz Advocacy: bit.ly/32cqTKN. It has terrific videos and a wonderful give-and-take between Rich and Phil, who stayed friends all these years.

Finally, **Toomas Hendrik Ilves** was in touch with links to his speech at the Warsaw Security Conference to mark Alexei Navalny's 2021 Knight of Freedom Award. Here is a shortened version: wapo.st/3CtFG0l. In his email, Toomas repeated what he said during one of our reunion Zooms, saying his thoughts are "yet another product of CC from 48 years ago."

The Zoom sessions we started during the pandemic continue. We did one in the fall, and my hope is to continue those mini-reunions four or five times a year. Please let me know if you have a time preference for the sessions. Usually, the schedule is for a weekday evening, but a Sunday afternoon allowed our overseas participants to join, so we have options.

Thank you to all classmates who contributed on Columbia Giving Day on October 20. Your generosity allows another generation of Columbia students to create their futures from Columbia College's unique Core Curriculum and environment. The fiscal year does not end until June 30, so you will hear from **John Connell** and me continually!

Please remember that Columbia Reunion 2022, scheduled for Thursday, June 9–Sunday, June 12, can be attended by all classes, not just milestone classes (this year, classes that end in 2 or 7). So, let's think about getting a few of us together in early June to mark our 45th reunion, one year late. I believe that Dean Harry Coleman '46 would give the entire class an incomplete from last year's reunion to allow the celebration in 2022 (college.columbia.edu/alumni/events/reunion2022).

Stay safe and create many more memories that you can report as updates!

The 18 Nocturnes are done, so I guess I will move on to the waltzes and Études, and just relax!

1977



David Gorman
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The 45th reunion is upon us. It will be held on the second weekend in June. Covid-19 willing, I hope to attend. That is to say, I plan to attend, but aside from being an oldster now, going to New York means traveling from Chicagoland (as it is actually called). Everything has an asterisk on it these days. I don't have a complete list of Reunion Committee members at the moment, but it includes **Mark Goldberger, Bill Gray, Jon Lukomnik** and **Brent Rosenthal.**

The only news to report is from **Dave Stanton,** who sends "greetings from Orange County, Calif., where I have spent my professional career since 1986. I am a still-practicing gastroenterologist."

At Columbia, Dave played for three years on the golf team, but has tried other sports since, including running and skiing. About 10 years ago he took up cycling, and eventually moved into competitive cycling. Last September, Dave won a National Championship and Gold Medal at the USA Cycling Masters Track National Championships in the men's age 65–69 division, individual pursuit event, in what he describes as "the iconic velodrome in Trexlertown, Pa." This was no casual accomplishment, as he explains: "I had to beat multiple other national champions, including a former Olympian, to capture the Stars-and-Stripes jersey." He is now looking forward to this year's World Championships in Los Angeles, adding, "I look forward to attending another Columbia reunion in the spring!"

Now there's the let's-go-Lions spirit for you.

1978

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Thanks for another great set of contributions! I'm not always sure about the future of democracy in America these days, but I do think Columbia football is looking up, so who's complaining ...

Joseph Zablotski, a freshman friend and one of the great tape bowlers — the official Five Jay sport — writes, "I'm a real estate attorney, and my wife, Theresa, is a corporate attorney, in Buffalo. Son Casimir, a Hamilton senior, is editor of *Enquiry,* the undergraduate publication of the Alexander Hamilton Institute. He interned for Rep. Chris Jacobs (R-N.Y.) last summer, and in 2019 was at Poland's Jagiellonian University. Younger son, Aleksander, a Johns Hopkins sophomore, interned at its School of Medicine. Daughter Greta is a senior at Nardin Academy.

"I have kept in contact with **Dave Jachimczyk, Mike Giniger,** Dave Sherman '80 and Steve Kushel '80.

"On a sad note, my dear friend Mike Hodinar '77 passed away. **Matthew Nemerson, Chris Paul** and **Rob Blank** will remember Mike as our freshman orientation coordinator. Mike was the first person I met on that hot and humid Friday before Labor Day weekend in 1974. Mike and his mother fled the communist oppression of Czechoslovakia following the Soviet crackdown in 1968. I'll miss his knowledge, empathy and good humor. An attorney and financial consultant, he and his wife



Homecoming on October 16 brought together (left to right) Tom Mariam '78, Dean Margolis '78, Fred Rosenstein '78, Don Simone '78 and Matthew Nemerson '78.

traveled the world, and we received postcards from Borneo to Patagonia, and all points in between."

Dr. **Bob Crochelt** touches base, "I'm enjoying life in California, working part time in Ukiah. The coast is about an hour away. Still masking here, avoiding indoor gatherings. Covid-19 is still crushing the community, although not as bad as previously. We've missed out on family gatherings that can't be made up. We avoid parties (which are happening again). We are still giving great patient care. And we still love each other."

Dr. **Michael Schulder** PS'82 has a house full of doctors, "Our daughter Ilana was married last August to Daniel Ross, a terrific young man from London (Hendon, if you must know). Their wedding was postponed for more than a year because of Covid, but now they live two blocks away from us, so we see them quite often. Ilana will soon be a child psychologist. Her younger sister, Talia, is getting a Ph.D. in clinical psych at CCNY and living at home for a while. We all live on the Upper West Side. The future of the city seems uncertain, but so far things seem no worse than the mid-1970s, and those were great times!"

World traveler **Christopher Dell** is "writing from Lisbon, on my way to Germany for work with the United States Africa Command. We had a trip to the United Kingdom, where my stepson got married on a glorious summer afternoon in London (meaning it only showered twice for five minutes at a time). Daughter Tedi works for USAID and will be going to Kiev next.

"The turning-an-old-windmill-into-a-home-in Portugal project is nearing completion, and we also bought a small place in Charleston as our future foothold in the States, so it's goodbye to Washington, D.C., for good soon. Retirement plans figure large in our thoughts, and I recently visited **Nick Serwer** LAW'81 at his new post-Singapore home in Maine. Beautiful home in a spectacular spot. Here's hoping he gets to enjoy it soon."

Christopher Allegaert does a Sundial-worthy recap of the Homecoming game as he writes, "Attended Homecoming with crew pal **Joel Levinson**. There was an enormous turnout of students on a beautiful, almost summer-like day, reveling in the schadenfreude of Penn losing as in 2019 to its former coach, Al Bagnoli. The turnaround under Bagnoli and his staff has been extraordinary. My wife summed it up: 'They look like a team that expects to win.' Gone are the days when overmatched but spirited Columbia teams might let the bad bounces get them down or lose a game by a wide margin after hanging tough as long as they could. The team is led by a preternaturally cool and talented QB from Seattle, Joe Green '24, who retracted a commitment to Harvard to go to San Diego State, only to decide he'd rather come to Morningside Heights, where he promptly became the starter. Roar, Lion, Roar!"

Next **Joel Levinson** himself notes, "My daughter, Allison '10, recently got engaged, and my son and daughter-in-law, Brett and Victoria, have a son, Leo (2), and a daughter, Madeline (3 months)."

Chuck Callan was also at Homecoming, "It was great to see **Fred Rosenstein, Tom Mariam,** Our Faithful Scribe and others along with a full stadium with current students and recent grads all eager to attend. I had an opportunity to thank 'Deantini' (departing College dean James J. Valentini) and wished him well."

Legal PR and New York sports maven **Tom Mariam** drove your Scribe to the game. He writes: "I've been enjoying this Columbia football season, both by being able to again attend games at Robert K. Kraft Field under Columbia blue skies and watching a really good team. Homecoming was a joy, not just by beating Penn convincingly but also by being reunited with classmates such as Our Humble Scribe, **Fred Rosenstein, Dean Margolis** and **Don Simone** (see photographic proof). I continue to cover games of our pro teams in the New York area for radio, including live game updates for SiriusXM NFL Radio and many postgame Zoom press conferences after Yankees games. I was recently selected to become one of the rotating anchors for the Associated Press's new nightly radio sportscasts, which can be heard on stations around the country and on podcast sites such as Apple.

"On a family note, daughter Madison is a freshman at Tulane, and son Michael a junior at Emory's Goizueta School of Business."

Rabbi **Ian Silverman** writes: "I'm in my 19th year in my pulpit position at my synagogue. We are now doing in-person services on the Sabbath. My wife, Beth, is a social worker at a local nursing and rehab facility. Son Alan recently earned a master's in music therapy and son Marc is working on a degree and certification in cyber security. Waiting for the pandemic to be in the rear view, but our spirits are good, and we are more fortunate than so many!

"Beth and I are contemplating retirement and looking forward to someday being 'pensioners' in a New Jersey beach community."

Great to hear from **Marvin Ira Charles Siegfried,** who writes: "I finally retired from the NYC DOE, after 34 years teaching in the same high school but also teaching as an adjunct at Kingsborough Community College. We got a puppy, to keep me busy and to get some exercise, and we're also hosting my daughter, son-in-law and our two grandchildren while their house is being remodeled. [As I write this], we expect another grandchild in November. It was a busy summer with a full house, and we'll be back to the new normal by Christmastime.

"Some people are just ignorant and think that the freedoms in the Bill of Rights mean they don't have to wear a mask or get vaccinated. These are the same people who forget that some vaccinations have been required for years to attend public schools and seat belts are also required by law. It's like my favorite Robert A. Heinlein quote: 'Never underestimate the power of human stupidity.'"

Mark Axinn recently switched law firms but still is in the condo and coop biz in Manhattan. "After 35 years in a boutique firm, I've joined Phillips Nizer's NYC office. Mr. [Louis] Nizer [CC 1922, LAW 1924], like me, was once the coxswain on Columbia crew, so it seemed like the right place to be."

Russ Frazer writes, "I have been in contact with other Glee Club members and am going to join the University Glee Club of New York City. In the meantime, I've been staying in on Saturday night and avoiding the fever."

Steven Wexner is "director, Digestive Disease Center and chair, Department of Colorectal Surgery, at the Cleveland Clinic in Florida, as well as vice-chair, American College of Surgeons Board of Regents and editor-in-chief, *Surgery*. My wife, Dr. Mariana Berho, became chief of staff at the Cleveland Clinic. Both sons have jobs in NYC, one in tech and one in private equity."

Steven Kugler notes, "My wife, Michele, is a social worker and psychotherapist. We've been married for 30 years and have two children, Orly and Chase. For the last 16 years I've been an attending neurologist at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. We enjoy spending time at our condo, which overlooks the beach at the Jersey shore."

Perhaps they will run into Rabbi Ian.

Joseph Michael Schachner SEAS'79 has news: "I'm planning to retire in a year or so. In the meantime I'm proud that we took an old piece of software that younger employees couldn't deal with and added a Python interpreter so now we can keep people who want to program in this language."

We're all playing to the millennials now, I guess.

We more than filled our allotted space this issue so if your piece got edited a bit, my apologies!

1979

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Michael Daswick's sixth novel, *Chip Rock and the Catalina Kid,* has been published. It chronicles the saga of an industrious yet unsettled burger artist who's aged out of a clammy orphanage on the SoCal coast. With little hope for a meaningful place in the world, the Kid shocks the community when he embarks on a daring open-water swim to Catalina Island. *Catalina Kid* is the nail-biting sequel to the acclaimed *Chip Rock and the Fat Old Fart*. While at Columbia, Michael won the Bennett Cerf Memorial Prize for Fiction, and the Cornell Woolrich Memorial Scholarship for Creative Writing.

Robert C. Klapper: "Today's Columbia thought comes directly from *CCT*'s Spring/Summer 2021 issue, because, and I'll be honest, I don't really read many of the other Class Notes columns. However, I could not help but glance at the CC'78 column, when my eyes caught a name that struck a major neuron in my brain's memory bank. It was an update from Robert Crochelt '78. I kept saying to myself, 'I know that name, I know that name ...' and then it hit me.

"I had three guardian angels during that horrific freshman year living in that concrete jungle of a dorm, Carman. Living in Carman was awful. If it wasn't for guardian angel number 1, Doc Deming, in my life, I never would have survived the crushing testosterone challenge. His nurturing and ability to speak to the athletes still amazes to this day. I witnessed two football players physically throwing 'Barney Fife' out of the elevator and saw how Deming handled the crisis, and that memory has stayed with me. The second guardian angel was the pre-med advisor, Patricia Geisler GSAS'79. Where it seemed every professor enjoyed the cutthroat nature of what life as a pre-med student entailed and actively participated in turning up the stress, if not for her optimism and kind-hearted reassurance, my dream of becoming a surgeon never would have come to fruition.

"But this column is about the third guardian angel who entered my life when I was a freshman. In a previous column I mentioned that I had discovered my Columbia University Bookstore assignments and 'dates to remember book,' 1975–76. You remember that red plastic planner book that cost $1.59? The fact that anything in life could cost $1.59 amazes me 46 years later.

"Back to guardian angel number 3: Robert Crochelt '78. The reason Bob's name in *CCT* lit up my memory bank is because his name appears almost 30 times throughout the year in that red book. He was my tutor. I realized how underwater I was going to be in freshman chemistry, and someone alerted me that if you went to the Dean's Office there was a tutorial service available. This was no longer a matter of pride, but one of survival. I requested the services of a tutor and was randomly assigned Bob. Forty-six years later I never realized that the service provider was a sophomore. All these years I had made the false assumption that Bob was either a graduate student or a University employee. It was not until this issue of *CCT* that I realized he was a really smart Good Samaritan sophomore who dropped out of heaven to make time for me, a pestering mentally deficient freshman desperate for his freshman chemistry pearls of wisdom.

"My freshman academic planning book was filled with reminders to go to crew practices, bus rides to the Catskills for my busboy job, family crises at home and so on, but prominently displayed each and every week were my appointments with Bob. He made time in his own college experience to accommodate me. He did this over and over and over.

"So guess what I did? I tracked him down, and I'm writing this column to tell you that I finally called him to thank him and to update him on all that I have been able to accomplish because of his generosity. With each word on the phone more and more of the rust in my brain broke off, revealing those moments at Butler Library, Hartley Hall or John Jay, where we could quietly close a door and translate the hieroglyphics that freshman chemistry appeared to me. I couldn't wait to ask him what he remembered of me, and to tell him that words alone were not enough to convey my gratitude, especially now realizing that he was just a student like me being charitable with his own precious time. His recollection transported me back to a time in my life where all I had were dreams and student loans with no guarantee for any success. How he remembered me and his description filled my heart with joy.

"Columbia was really tough for me, especially that transitional freshman year, where we were finally on our own, no longer living at home. It's clear the only way to thank those angels that we met 46 years ago is to be an angel ourselves to a stranger and pay it forward.

"Roar, lion, roar!"

1980

Michael C. Brown
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"To appreciate the beauty of a snowflake it is necessary to stand out in the cold."

— Anonymous

I trust you all had a wonderful holiday season and are welcoming 2022 in style. The cold weather in NYC has me moving to South Florida for the winter. I do not miss the winds on campus!

Steve Kane LAW'83 checked in with this commentary from a recent event: "Almost to the day of the 45th anniversary of Columbia Ultimate's first win (for the record, it was over Yale 21–20), Columbia alumni from the Classes of 1978–84, including three alumni who were at that first win, gathered under clear blue skies on September 11 in Hardyston, N.J., to play their annual Ultimate Frisbee reunion game. The alumni reunion game is a tradition dating from 1990. Despite the two-year layover (we skipped the 2020 reunion due to some pandemic), the play was as brisk as usual. Chris Schmidt '81, GSAS'83, BUS'85 opened the game with a diving catch and closed the game with a diving (almost) block. The blue team came back to defeat the white team 15–13. Coaching by **Steve Kane** and Maurice Matiz SEAS'79, SEAS'84 brought out the best from all players. No one argued with any call by the observer/referee Jerry McManus '89, GSAS'97, professor of earth and environmental sciences at Columbia. The fact that there was no significant injury was a victory for all. Post-game conviviality was hosted by Paul Tvetenstrand SEAS'82, SIPA'82, LAW'83 at his Beaver Lake house, where toasts were made to team founder David "Buddha" Meyer '77, who is in the Ultimate Hall of Fame, and stories were retold in which the older we get, the better we were. Pre-game carbo loading occurred at V&T on Friday night, after which several team players loosened up at 10 p.m. with a round of disc golf on campus, where Ernie Cicconi '81 was able to set a personal best low score (aided by the fact that some holes are no longer playable or exist, such as the 11th hole that consisted of starting at the stairway on the east side of Uris and throwing the disc into the urn that used to be between Avery and Fayerweather)."

John Morace send me this nice note: "I was very happy to read in the Spring/Summer 2021 issue that José Abete '79 is now the secretary-general of the Fondation Jardin Majorelle in Marrakech.

"Five or six years ago, my partner, Tom Kennedy, and I were traveling through Morocco and visited with José. We even took a cooking class at his beautiful riad in the center of Marrakech, La Maison Blanche. During that trip we also visited the former home of Yves Saint Laurent and Pierre Berge, the Majorelle Garden and Yves Saint Laurent

Stay in Touch

Let us know if you have a new postal or email address, a new phone number or even a new name: **college.columbia.edu/alumni/connect.**

Museum. Majorelle is a very special and beautiful place. To take on the responsibility of leading it is a great public service and I wish José much joy and success in this new role.

"I had the opportunity to enjoy surf and turf with super lawyer Bruce Paulsen '80 at Sparks Steak House in NYC and Billy's Stone Crab in Hollywood, Fla. It was great catching up on world events."

Drop me a line at mcbcu80@yahoo.com.

1981

Dan Albohn, Kevin Costa and Rich Gentile
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One of the pandemic's visible social symptoms is "The Great Resignation": Millions of Americans have quit their jobs because they are no longer willing to tolerate poor working conditions, and have shown themselves willing to trade off some material comforts for a better quality of life.

Long before The Great Resignation, there was Eric Hansen '84. Through example and counsel, Eric helped many others examine that tradeoff for themselves. He entered with the Class of '79 and had many friends in our class. You might have read his obituary in the Spring/Summer 2021 issue of *CCT*, which summarized the one in *The New York Times*: bit.ly/HANSENOBIT.

Despite abundant intellectual, comic and musical talents, Eric chose not to live an achievement-driven life. For his friends, the importance of Eric's life was aptly summarized by **David Huemer**, who eulogized him as someone who, by "doing very little" was always "demonstrating the profound nature of being present." In this way, he inspired "love, affection and good feeling in others."

Eric was active in the Columbia community throughout his entire adult life. Rebecca Turner '87 described Eric as "a major figure in my college life and that of so many others." Rebecca calls him "one of the most legendary members of the Columbia University Glee Club — perhaps the most legendary." To her, Eric was "the quintessential Columbia man of the '80s: mega-smart, musical and poetic, charming, hilarious, sarcastic, talented, music-obsessed, different and doing it his way." You could say he was like a real-life modern-day character from *On the Road,* the classic novel by Jack Kerouac '44.

On July 9, Rebecca reports, a daylong celebration for Eric brought together many alumni and friends, including **Ron Yanagi; Bob Maddox; Stuart Christie; Greg Staples; Dave Cook**; Dean Todd '76; M. George Stevenson '80, SOA'99; **Bruce Pross**; Larry Scoones '92; Laurie Gershon '87; Bev Weintraub BC'82; Cathy Mazza BC'81; Michele Hierholzer BC'82; Tina Pinocchio Staples BC'83; and Maya Panvell-Hartheimer BC'87.

Margarita "Ari" Brose BC'84 described the opening act of the festivities at V&T: "The group laughed, told stories and sang toasts to the departed. Memories of Eric included his ability to be the last person to leave a party or bar, his encyclopedic musical knowledge and his love of bowling."

Act Two of Eric's last party took place at Freddy's Bar in Brooklyn. "Freddy's," Ari explained, "is probably the closest spiritual heir to the now-defunct West Village watering hole McGovern's, site of the Blowhole theater musical revue, where Eric often performed as a one-man tribute band called 'Tom Waits for No One.' Blowhole's creator, Don Rauf, led a succession of musicians and readers that feted Eric. Tom Waits numbers and other songs were sung in tribute." (Impossible to include was Eric's memorably surreal rendition of Tony Orlando and Dawn's "Candida" channeled through Tom Waits.) Appropriately, **Kenny Young** and the Eggplants were among the performers that night, for Eric's deep, rich baritone was featured on several of their albums.

A few of Eric's poems were also read from the stage, including these:

Kill This Poem

These words you see,
spread so haplessly across the page
Serve to remind you that,
given enough time
You too could write this poem.

The Hyenas Come to Feast

They laugh at food.

They're short poems, maybe too short — like Eric's life. Thanks, Rebecca and Ari. Eric will be missed.

Steven Gee writes: "Forty years since our graduation has gone by more quickly than I ever imagined. I'm lately reminded of 9-11, which was just 20 years ago but seems much more recent. When we were at Columbia, the end of WWII was less than 40 years earlier, yet seemed like something that only existed in textbooks. Now our college experience lies the same distance back. Immediately following graduation, I went to Wharton for an M.B.A., and then started my career in business and finance. I met my wife, Teresa, a Hong Kong native who attended Wharton undergrad at the same time I was there. After I started working and after she graduated, Teresa and I frequently met in locations between New York and Hong Kong and spent time traveling to various 'neutral' locations in the Pacific Rim, especially Hawaii, which we have grown to love. I've worked at various companies, including General Motors, Salomon Brothers, Citigroup, Barclays and now Bloomberg, where I've worked on corporate finance, capital markets, derivatives and structured finance transactions. The transactional life has generally been fun, though the ups and downs that 'The Street' dishes out make you appreciate life and your network of friends. Early on, there weren't so many Columbia alums on Wall Street, but over time I met more alumni from the College and the Business School. (But Penn grads who migrated to NYC to work in finance always outnumbered Columbia alumni. Maybe it comes down to the difference between the Core Curriculum and Ben Franklin's focus on a practical education in 'business').

"I've lived in Manhattan since getting married in 1987 and have two daughters, Maddie and Kristen, both of whom opted to follow their mother's footsteps to Penn. I guess the appeal of being about 100 miles from home was more attractive than having helicopter parents in the same borough! As a family, we've traveled extensively, exploring much of Asia (given my wife's roots there) and spending summers in Hawaii when the girls were in K–12. With the girls catching the travel bug, together we have visited many places, including Finland (to see the Northern Lights), the Greek Isles, Bali, Maldives and various countries in Western Europe. I was most interested in the Parthenon and the Parthenon museum — it must have been because of Art Hum. Our visits to Athens finally made me appreciate what we were exposed to on campus and in class. The College and campus have blossomed during these 40-plus years, and it seems that today's Columbia students have more fun than we did. Nonetheless, I can say that I appreciated my time on Morningside Heights, and I do treasure the learning experience of those four years.

"I've stayed in touch with some classmates, including **Steve Williams**, whom I look forward to seeing when he comes up from Florida, and **Allan Taffett**, who lives in the same building I do. Alan continues to work out furiously and has the same youthful look some of you might recall from dining with him in the John Jay cafeteria. From my early finance days, I'd occasionally see **Brian Krisberg, Tom Glocer** and **Jim Moglia**. Others whom I wish I'd run into are Dr. **Tom Cava**, my tennis and pre-med buddy ('You made it through!') and Michael Rogers '80, another tennis buddy who might think of himself more as an '80 grad since he graduated early, but we know better. Sad that two of my Stuyvesant H.S. homeroom classmates, **Tom Barlis** and **Chuck Murphy**, are no longer with us. We all made the short trek from 15th Street to 116th Street. I still pop up to the Columbia neighborhood occasionally, but these days it's to stand in line at

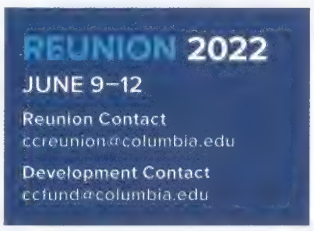
Contact *CCT*

Update your address, email or phone; submit a Class Note, new book, photo, obituary or Letter to the Editor; or send us an email. Click "Contact Us" at **college.columbia.edu/cct.**

Absolute Bagels. There's a really good vibe and always a nice feeling to be around campus."

Rich Hauptschein SEAS '81 recently relocated from Kennett Square, Pa. (the Mushroom Capital of the World), to Bluffton, S.C., and in August celebrated his 40th work anniversary with DuPont, DowDuPont and Corteva Agriscience, a career run that included a stint in Raleigh, N.C., before he landed at the company's Wilmington, Del., headquarters. As an IT professional, Rich led multiple global implementations for DuPont, primarily in warehousing and logistics. Rich has competed in several triathlons, including the Hawaiian Ironman Triathlon, and continues to enjoy a good round of golf. The father of three, his two eldest, Jeffrey and Lauren, ventured to Happy Valley for college, and having graduated from Penn State, both have followed their dad into the corporate world. Rich's youngest, Matthew, is a junior at Temple. Rich stays in touch with several members of the swim team, including Rick Robinson '84, Mike McCool '84 and Jeff Wetzel SEAS '78. Rich says he relishes his years on the team and gleefully recalls the two upset wins over Princeton, including one in their pool.

1982



Andrew Weisman
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Greetings one and all from sunny Colorado. As fall turned to winter, an old man's thoughts turn to CC'82 Class Notes. Fortunately, I was not alone in this endeavor!

Writing in this period was the good doctor, **Saul Newman:** "I have not written to Class Notes in decades but given the low number of submissions from '82, I thought I would. I live in Silver Spring, Md., and am the associate dean for undergraduate education in the School of Public Affairs at American University in Washington, D.C. In addition to my day job, I recently completed a stint of active involvement in my synagogue, including two terms as president. My wife, Naomi Baum, spent 20 years working in the U.S. Senate for Senators Levin, Cranston, Kohl, Kerry and Warren, and is now the COO of a nonprofit research organization that develops transformative policies to reduce energy waste and combat climate change.

"During the pandemic, our three children returned home to hunker down but have now largely returned to where they belong. Our son, Ezra, is a lawyer at a large firm in New York and recently bought an apartment in the city. Our daughter, Leah, is a 3L, works at NBC and also lives in New York. As a New Yorker myself, it is nice to have family in NYC again. Our youngest, Betzalel, lives in D.C. and works at the National Democratic Institute. Five years ago, Naomi's mom moved in with us, but she kept her house in San Francisco so when it is relatively Covid-19–safe to fly we try to get away from the oppressive humidity of the D.C. area to spend time in the less-oppressive fog of the Sunset District by the Pacific."

Thanks, Saul, for staying in touch!

Gentlemen, if anyone else gets the urge to follow Saul, it would be greatly appreciated by all of us!

1983

Roy Pomerantz
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Greetings, classmates. At the time of this entry, the Columbia football team is 5–1 (2–1 in the Ivy League). I attended Homecoming with my wife and sons. After the pandemic hiatus, the 23–14 win over Penn was particularly gratifying. I enjoyed spending time with Mike Schmidtberger '82, LAW'85; Marc Mazur '81; David Filosa '82; Doug Wolf '88; Michael Behringer '89; Chris Della Pietra '89; Raymond Yu '89, SEAS'90; and Stefanie Katz-Rothman '88.

Stirling Phillips: "I am blessed and thankful to be among the living as we go through this pandemic. I am a full-time mediator for the District of Columbia Office of Human Rights. I had volunteered for a number of years as mediator for the Conflict Resolution Center of Montgomery County, the District Court of Maryland and for the Maryland Commission for Civil Rights. I discovered a passion for conflict resolution work and enjoy my work as conflict resolution practitioner.

"My wife, Paulette, and I are proud parents of three amazing young people, all of whom are in college now. Hence, the new career as mediator (smile). Our eldest daughter, Niani, is a student at the Fashion Institute of Technology, with a focus on sustainable fashion design. Our son, Nathan, is a pre-med/film student at the University of Southern California and our youngest daughter, Noelani, is a pre-med student-athlete (track and field) at Boston University.

"My hobbies include gardening, and I am involved in various ministries at my church in Maryland including Bible study, community service outreach to people experiencing homelessness and teaching a Saturday morning Sabbath school class. I have kept in touch with Rhona Julien SEAS'84 and **Oladipo Onipede SEAS'83.** I fondly recall working on the *Black Heights* literary magazine and still have a copy. I really enjoyed Professor Hollis Lynch's lectures and great conversation during soirees at his home."

David Propert: "I have been married for nine years to Amber, whom I met through work. We have two boys, Jamie (7) and Rhys (3). We live in Alexandria, Va., which has been my home for 30 years. Professionally, I am in my 36th year of federal service as a contract specialist, 11 years with the Navy and the remainder in various other offices working on defense-wide issues, including the last 13 with the Office of the Secretary of Defense. Most of that time has been spent transitioning procurement processes from paper to data and enabling department-wide visibility into operations.

"I am not in touch with the rather more well-known prior executive branch occupant from our class, but I am in touch fairly frequently with **Mark McMorris,** who was also a roommate my last two years at Columbia."

Mark Reisbaum: "Despite the common refrain in the media, San Francisco, which has been my primary home for 30 years, is still a great town. I left my longtime role at the Jewish Community Federation and Endowment Fund and started my own philanthropy advisory practice three years ago (reisbaum.com). I love my work advising high-net worth individuals and families on their foundations, giving strategies and volunteer roles. The son of one of my clients recently joined a Columbia University board, which made me feel both proud and rather ancient. I am on a few boards myself, and recently began my term as chair of the board of Spark* SF Public Schools, the nonprofit that connects our school district to the philanthropic and business community. I've stayed in touch with a number of Columbia pals, including **Steve Min,** Dr. Ronald Shaw '82 and Henry Fischman GS'83, who started in Engineering.

"I cherish my time at Columbia, and remember fondly the amazing faculty, including Professors Carol Gluck GSAS'77, Ainslie Embree GSAS'60 and Wm. Theodore de Bary '41, GSAS'53. My husband, Michael Case, grew up in Maine, so we get back to the East Coast regularly. We purchased our 'retirement home' in Palm Springs a few years back, and that was our sanctuary during much of 2020. Summers in the desert are too hot for me so we'll likely find a place near the coast of Maine one day, too."

Ralph Rivera: "We've been living in London for 11 years, but New York will always be home. Our two kids are enrolled in the American School in London so we can enjoy some U.S. community ties here, and prepare them to return if and when that happens — British accents and all. Note them, not me. My Bronx accent is still very much intact.

"I came to London to work for the BBC, and stayed to work for Discovery and now the NBA with a focus on Europe and the Middle East.

"Time is going by fast. Can't believe we graduated from Columbia almost 39 years ago. Very fond memories of being a freshman in Carman; late nights getting access to computer time in Mudd; studying in Butler; basketball in Levien Gym; living at the Alpha Phi Alpha frat house; eating at Tom's, V&T and Mama Joy's; and playing Ms. Pac-Man at The West End.

"Wherever I am and whatever I do, it's because Columbia — the education and the community — helped put me on that path."



Hiking Camelback Mountain in Phoenix on October 9 were (left to right) Don Henline '84, Rick Robinson '84, Mike McCool '84 and Jim Knocke '84.

Philip Wolinsky: "I lived in John Jay (14th floor, I think) soph year. I went to NYU med school and became an orthopedic surgeon. I work at UC Davis and am an ortho trauma surgeon. I've been here with my family since 2002 when we moved from NYC. I am married to Kim Cusimano, a psychologist. We met at Vanderbilt, where she was finishing her Ph.D., in 1998. We have a 13-year-old daughter, Hudson. They both love riding horses and somehow this Queens guy ended up owning three horses. We are moving back to the East Coast this summer, to Hanover, N.H., and I will start a job at the Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center.

"I have lost touch with my Columbia friends but remember my time there fondly."

Bill Schultz: "Flew into New York (from Atlanta) to go to my first (perhaps last) WWE event with my sons, Joshua and Daniel '16, and to visit my daughter, Rebecca, and our grandson, Benjamin (Class of 2042, we hope)! Benjamin got to see my 93-year-old dad, who graduated from the Law School in 1956, in person for the first time (due to Covid-19 restrictions)!"

Gardner Semet BUS'91: "I became the business line manager of the Commercial Real Estate Department of the Israel Discount Bank of New York in March 2020. First it was remote and now I have been in the office at the Grace Building. My wife, Daphne, worked through the pandemic at Mount Sinai, where she is vice-chair of administration and finance. Last August, my daughter Gabriella married Shaun Tafreshi at our home in Pompton Lakes, N.J."

Jim Trainor: "I studied English literature at Columbia and remain a great reader, but my real passion in life has always been filmmaking, especially animation. I made a series of films in the '90s and '00s that showed widely at international film festivals (one was in the Whitney Biennial). You can see them on Vimeo: *The Bats, The Moschops, The Magic Kingdom, The Fetishist, The Presentation Theme* and *The Pink Egg*.

"To support my animation habit I worked a variety of jobs, including a happy stint as a bartender in a tiny East Village bar, but in 2000 I was offered a job as a film professor and moved to Chicago. The School of the Art Institute of Chicago is wonderful, and I have been happy here, although I miss my 21 years in New York every day. I am married to a talented musician and singer, Caroline Nutley, and we have a 9-year-old boy, Charlie, who likes dinosaurs and 'bad CGI movies' like *Sharknado* and *Piranhaconda*.

"In recent years I have strayed from animation a little in favor of writing (novels, stories, screenplays and biographies); we'll see what happens with that, but at the very least I am having a lot of fun and not the slightest tinge of writer's block. I am in touch with quite a few of my Columbia and Barnard pals, and when the Covid-19 crisis is over I plan to take my family on a New York City vacation, where we will spend about a week in the American Museum of Natural History and, of course, visit my beloved Columbia campus. Much love and good feelings to all classmates."

Mike Schmidtberger '82, LAW'85 co-authored an op-ed on NCAA Reform: "Compensating College Athletes: Moving the Ball Forward" (bit.ly/3Duvshf).

John Bonomi and I enjoyed Homecoming at Hamilton College. Our daughters, Liza and Rebecca, are sophomores and have become good friends.

Great news! Columbia will welcome back fans to Levien Gym this winter. Hope to see you at some basketball games.

1984

Dennis Klainberg
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Theaters might have been closed during the pandemic, but **Peter Schmidt** took to the internet to produce his play, *Sheep May Safely Graze: a chemo cabaret,* in cooperation with Actors' Equity Association. The performance raised thousands of dollars for ovarian cancer research. Says TV producer **Adam Belanoff**, "It's just a flat-out brilliant production." Per yours truly, **Dennis Klainberg:** "Life-affirming! Get a bunch of laughs and give a bunch of shekels."

If you're curious and would like a laugh (yes, there are plenty of laughs in this play), you can watch it at bit.ly/3DyPRIC.

Life is better because of the jab, but **Scott Avidon** didn't throw away his shot: "I saw that Broadway musical about our fellow alumnus, *Hamilton,* for my 59th birthday. Been a workers' compensation law judge for about 20 years. Unfortunately, I now sit alone in 'The Room Where It Happens,' my courtroom. Videoconference hearings only since Covid-19."

Segue to Jurassic Park via New Haven: Dr. **Steven L. Saunders:** "I am president-elect of the New Haven County Medical Association and practiced primary care internal medicine throughout the pandemic. I teach medical students at both Yale and Quinnipiac and am proud to have recently been awarded the Excellence in Clinical Teaching Award at the Frank H. Netter MD School of Medicine. I remain one of the few solo practitioners in primary care."

Steven continues, "My son Andrew is finishing his senior year as a chemical engineer at Washington University in St. Louis and has been offered a position as a chemical engineer in research and development at Unilever.

"Eldest son Brian is an industrial engineer, having graduated from Northwestern in 2018, and is a senior data engineer/scientist at Caesars/William Hill, now working remotely from Florida. My wife, Michelle, and I are truly empty-nesters, with the exception of our beautiful little 9-year-old Miniature Red Poodle, Heidi."

Also in the spirit of *naches* (joy), **Mark Simon** checked in to mention that his oldest child graduated from Lehigh in May 2021 and is gainfully employed as a mechanical engineer at a large engineering/construction firm. His younger son, Oliver, is a sophomore at Washington University in St. Louis, where Mark has joined a board of its medical school to advise on life science translation to industry. He has twin daughters in 10th grade and donates his time to a foundation that is overseeing a clinical trial for hospitalized Covid patients.

And what would our column be without another mention of **Yossi Rabin**, his wife, Kochava, and their marvelous *mishpocha* (family)? Mazel tov on the birth of their 12th grandchild, a *yingele* (boy) named Yair Ahuvia Rabin.

Covid got your tongue? From Scottish to British to Yiddish to Yinglish, **Mark Binder** has seen the last of the wee bairn fly the coop, and is much relieved. Professionally, he has taken the pen name of Izzy Abrahmson, and is in the process of issuing four books in The Village Life Series. The first two, *Winter Blessings* and *A Village Romance,* have received great reviews. He's also going on tour (virtually and eventually in person) with The Village Life Live ... Whether you're Jewish or not, these are books that you'll enjoy.

And speaking of flying saucers: On his recent controversial Netflix special, *The Closer,* comedian Dave Chappelle invokes UFOs and "space Jews," but did you know that we had a Columbia Ultimate Frisbee team? Did you know that it has annual reunions? Did you know that **HJ Lee, Jim Drennan, Phil Hirschhorn, Chris Betts** and **Joe Strothman** were involved? I surely did not know — or truly have no recollection (senior moment?) of this team, but thanks to an email from Stephen M. Kane '80, please direct your attention to the Class of '80 column and find out what we've been missing!

All kidding aside, with sadness, we belatedly announce the passing of **Eric Hansen**, whose obituary was in the Fall 2021 issue, and we regret to inform you of the passing of Richard M. Froehlich '85, LAW'88, a friend to so many in the Class of '84. A tribute

to Richard can be found in Jonathan White '85's column, and an obit in the Obituaries section of this issue. May their memory be a blessing.

1985

Jonathan White
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Sam Denmeade was recently named editor-in-chief of the medical journal *The Prostate* and also appointed director of genitourinary oncology at Johns Hopkins. "I have been leading an effort to develop a form of treatment for prostate cancer involving administration of high doses of testosterone to men who have developed resistance to standard hormone treatments," he writes.

After enjoying the last 20 years based in Moscow, where he was CEO of DeltaCredit Bank and Rusfinance Bank, **Serge Ozerov** BUS'89 has moved to Paris to join ALD Automotive, the European leader in automotive leasing. "Aside from giving my wife and me an opportunity to enjoy Paris, it also brings us a little closer to our twin sons, Anthony '23 and Max '23."

Congrats to **John Phelan** on his daughter Unity being named a principal dancer in the New York City Ballet — one of the youngest in the company's history (nyti.ms/3nabdQy)!

We got a couple more Covid-19 updates. **Terry Jones** BUS'97 reports that "the Covid experience was eerily positive for me in that my kids were home from work, university and high school, which is pure joy for the parents as we seemed to fall into our silly family competitions and binge-watching various shows. Also, some Columbia track alums and I have had monthly Zoom calls. The participants are Ward Bobitz '86, Dave McCarty '86, Andre O'Reggio '87, Doug Teasdale '89, Bruce Furukawa '87, John Sun '87 and Greg Gonzalez '87. I have long since retired from 30 years on Wall Street and I am in the process of looking at starting/acquiring a company with some of my friends and former colleagues. Retirement is not all it's cracked up to be and I think that the next chapter will be the most fun of all."

For **Gregory Jarrin**, the last year and a half has been difficult in Arizona. "Beginning in March 2020, during my last six months in Winslow, Ariz., serving the Southern Tier of the Navajo nation, our healthcare facility was overwhelmed with Covid patients. We had a pharmacist and a secretary on the medical-surgical unit die suddenly in April 2020. I worked with a family physician from Winslow to educate our community members about the seriousness of this novel coronavirus and how wearing masks, washing our hands and avoiding large gatherings were all effective strategies to prevent the spread of Covid.

"In September 2020, my wife, Vanessa, and I moved to Whiteriver, Ariz. She is a nurse practitioner in the ER while I was the solo general surgeon. We have struggled with the rise and fall of Covid cases on the White Mountain Apache Reservation. The OR was initially limited to emergent procedures only but finally opened up to elective cases a few months ago. But now, with a severe nursing shortage, we are once again limited to only emergency surgery.

"We enjoy living and working in Whiteriver. The mountains are beautiful. It is cool most of the summer and we get to experience four seasons. We hope to travel soon once the pandemic starts to wane."

Greg also commented on a theme many of us are facing: "We are now empty-nesters! Our youngest, Chloe, graduated from high school in June 2020 and is a sophomore at St. Mary's College of California. We are planning to travel to Spain and Portugal in April to visit our other daughter, Felicia, who is teaching English along the Mediterranean Coast of Spain. She graduated from Santa Clara College in June 2021. Felicia is applying to Columbia for graduate school in the fall. Our oldest, Julian, graduated from Arizona State University in May 2020. He works in Phoenix in theater light design for two companies. He recently helped set up the stage and lighting for the Eagles at the Footprint Center (formerly the Phoenix Suns Arena). Our other son, Luke, lives in San Diego and is a wildlife biologist for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. I send my best wishes to the Class of 1985. Please stay safe!"

David Zapolsky dropped his stepson off at Santa Clara College in the fall, so like many classmates, he's trying to figure out his next chapter as an empty-nester. "I'm still very happy and lucky to be fully engaged at Amazon," David writes, "but I am also going to start teaching this year, starting with a survey course on law and policy of the internet and e-commerce at the University of Washington School of Law this winter. If I like the way it comes out, I'll probably try to teach the course at other schools as well."

Unfortunately, the rest of David's note was about the tragic and unexpected death of **Rich Froehlich** LAW'88 this past September. [Editor's note; See "Obituaries."] After graduating from the Law School and stints at several prominent law firms, Rich found his calling in the world of public financing for affordable housing. He joined the New York City Housing Development Corporation as general counsel in 2003 and was promoted several times to his last position as first executive VP and chief operating officer, where he directed the corporation's bond finance and operating activities, and was regularly recognized in the real estate community for his efforts. He had suffered the loss of his husband, Joe DeVito, in 2020.

David had many great memories of Rich, at Columbia in the Glee Club and the Notes and Keys, and in many other contexts since. "Rich and I had dinner in 2019. He was in Seattle for a housing conference and we spent a delightful evening dining at a restaurant in Pike Place Market catching up and reminiscing. In an odd coincidence, I was meeting with a congressman in D.C. just a day before Rich died, who had professional history working on New York public housing issues. When I asked if he knew Rich, he smiled and said, "Of course. Everyone knows Rich." A day later I heard the tragic news ... He was a leader and role model in our class, in many ways, and I know he will be dearly missed."

Paul Bongiorno was at *Spectator* the same time as Rich, and remembered him as an inquisitive and thoughtful reporter. **Steve Sivakoff** said Rich was "a kind and happy man." **Sebastian Sperber** expressed the sentiment of many: "How sad."

Rich was an ever-present part of our Columbia experience. As **Gregory Jarrin** put it, "Every interaction I had with him was positive. He was a hard worker who was dedicated to improving our experience at Columbia College. He seemed to be involved in so many different activities during our four years that it was hard to keep track of how much he really contributed."

In addition to my experiences with *Spectator* and singing groups with Rich, we worked extensively together on Freshman Orientation. Rich was chosen to lead the College program, and did a great job in revisioning how the week could create and foster College-specific spirit, something that has grown on campus ever since. He brought a tireless work ethic, as well as a passion and conviction for his beliefs, and made many lifelong friends along the way.

Of course, Rich's loss compounds the loss last year of **Tom Vinciguerra.** As **Joe Titlebaum** commented, "Wasn't it just yesterday that I sat in the same Lit Hum section with Tom and Rich, in fall 1981? I think many of those books are actually on the shelf behind me in my home office as I write this; may the memories of Tom and Rich be a blessing."

Leslie Smartt summed up 2021, a tragic year for CC'85, so elegantly: "In my montage of moments that made being a Columbia student so special, Rich and Tom show up in frame after frame. They were those people — the ones who show up, push the rocks, make things go and bring everyone along with them. Each was in his own way quirky, mischievous, earnest, generous, brilliant and open-hearted. They were both connectors, the glue, at the intersection of so many campus activities. I keep replaying this one poignant line from the 'Columbia Marching Song,' which Rich sang with the Glee Club so many times: 'We're all young together and the best of life's ahead ...'

"The way forward is less bright with the sudden loss of these inimitable classmates."

Amen.

1986

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James Carr: "It occurs to me that later this year will mark 10 years since the untimely passing of our friend **David Rakoff.** This world has been a bit dimmer, a bit colder and certainly less full of laughter since David left it. As with all such bright

lights that inevitably go out, we can only imagine how differently the events of the past decade might have unfolded had there been a David to skewer and chase away the demons (within and without) with his wit and insights. It would be nice to think about some sort of remembrance to mark the anniversary.

"News from me? Daughter Nina graduated from UVM and is now hopping through farms in Europe; son Jonah is freestyle-scootering his way through high school; and wife Kim BC'88 has published her fourth book, which will also come out in England next spring, *Dear Knausgaard,* an epistolary literary critique of the bestselling Norwegian author of *My Struggle,* Karl Ove Knausgaard.

"I am refocusing my attention on my architecture practice after a four-year stint on the busy Brookline Planning Board, looking to (shall I say it?) build back better, as a more design-focused practice, still rooted in sustainability. Caught up recently with Corinna Snyder BC'87, Roger Miller '83, and Doug Jones '89."

Congrats to **David Green** for successfully completing his six-month run across America on September 26! The run took him from Jacksonville Beach, Fla., to Muir Beach, Calif. Check out davidgreen.run for lots of details and photos.

Michael Gat: "I moved to Seattle about three years ago to take a role at Amazon Web Services, which has served me well. Last summer, I made a move to Stripe for a much more interesting role at better compensation. Hard to believe that I've managed to somehow remain technologically relevant after all these years, but not complaining about the ongoing rewards. With the border now (finally!) open, I'm again able to see my Canadian girlfriend in person, and have begun to establish a semi-permanent weekend presence in Vancouver. In interest of my knees' longevity, I've mostly stopped skiing, but continue cycling (both road and mountain) and in recent years started doing some motorcycle touring in the dry season (in Seattle, that's about two days in August). I've been getting to New York more than I had for several years, and been reconnecting with some old friends and colleagues."

Matthew Epstein: "Living in Hoboken with my wife, Juliane; we celebrated our 33rd anniversary in December (where did the time go?). We have three children: Lukas (28), working in consulting and living in Williamsburg (as to be expected); Noah (25), finishing his last year of law school and will clerk for a federal judge on the 10th Circuit (very proud parents); and Leah (23), living in Austria on a Fulbright researching the connection between diabetes and gut biome (literally looking at people's shit; and again very proud parents).

"I started my own merchant bank in 2020 and am thoroughly enjoying myself (I get to look in the mirror every morning and curse out my boss and he doesn't fire me, go figure). Time has flown and we did not expect to be where we are today, but we have no complaints, are happy and generally enjoying life. Regards to all."

John "Brynjo" Brynjolfsson: "The most important thing to know about me since graduating from Columbia is family comes first. I have been married for more than 30 years to Peggy, who brought me four beautiful children. Peggy loves being a mother, and is a passionate traveler, hiker and part-time sailor. William (28) is a pilot for Delta Connection and recently bought his first condo in Atlanta. Megan, still precious to me, tragically passed in 2019 from a pulmonary embolism. She was an EMT and phlebotomist, and is now a posthumous graduate of Chapman University in medical sciences. Nicole (22) is a junior executive in fashion, and an honors graduate of UC Berkeley. And my youngest, by a minute, Alexis (22), is also a junior executive and graduate of UC Berkeley. My brothers, Olaf, Erik and Alan, all recently moved to California. My sister, Ariane, lives in Denmark, with her husband and three daughters, where she was, and they were, born.

"As far as hobbies, I have been a lifelong sailor. As a child in Wayland, Mass., I learned to sail on a Sunfish, and later saved money earned from washing dishes to buy one of the first windsurfers, in 1980. I was anointed 'Helmsman' by Community Boating on the Charles River in summer 1979. I headed to Lake Cochituate, Mass., every time winds topped 20 knots. Family vacations to Lake Winnipesaukee, Squam Lake and Cape Cod would often involve renting a Hobie Cat catamaran. After retiring in 2016, I jumped with both feet back into sailing with the purchase of a Beneteau First 40. I quickly gravitated toward fleet racing, and my First 40 won its class in the March 2021 Islands Race under the tutelage of San Diego Yacht Club member and America's Cup alumnus Chris Doolittle. In April 2021, I bought a 2006 TP52 racing sailboat and christened her *Saga.* The boat is now immaculate and was relaunched in September. Chris, a team of 50 sailors and I now practice three times a week, and have a full 2022 West Coast race season scheduled. The pinnacle of our schedule will include the Rolex Big Boat Series at the St. Francis Yacht Club in San Francisco next September."

John Chachas: "I relocated all three of my businesses — Gump's San Francisco, Inyo Broadcast and Methuselah Advisors — to Salt Lake City, having moved back to the west. I've had a house in Deer Valley for a decade and I moved into it full time. I saw enough ballets and philharmonic and Yankees and such for a lifetime. Wishing New York adieu after 40 years!"

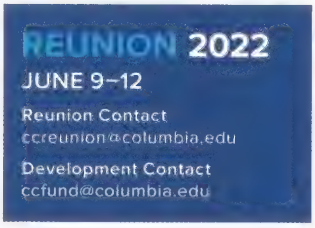
Mitch Earleywine: "Like most of us, I've been keeping my head down during Covid-19 just hoping to survive. I'm a professor of psychology at SUNY Albany. My lab recently published some data suggesting that marijuana creates some of the mystical experiences that seem to underlie psilocybin's antidepressant effects that have made their way into the news lately. (A huge dose of THC administered with psychological support might help folks battle depression in the same way the key molecule from 'magic mushrooms' does.)

"My older daughter is a pre-med student at USC and my younger one recently qualified for the New York State finals in diving and seems poised to sign an offer to dive for the University of Denver. I always get a kick out of hearing how our classmates are doing."

Steve Klotz: "I'm recently back from UNESCO World Heritage Sea of Cortez in Mexico, where I spent 11 days mostly underwater. It's known as the aquarium of the world for good reason. I saw sea lions, whale sharks, hammerhead sharks and schools of Mexican mackerel in the thousands. Also, I'm very proud to be part of a forensic psychiatric expert team assisting veterans in recovering more than $100 million from hospital fraud."

Judy Chinitz sent her first update: "I am a licensed special education teacher in New York and the director of Mouth to Hand Learning Center in Westchester. It's an educational center where we teach nonspeaking children and adults with autism and related disorders to speak via spelling on letter boards or keyboards. My own son, Alex, has nonspeaking autism, and for 25 years of his life, was treated as though he were profoundly cognitively disabled. Two years ago, I heard about this technique, learned it and it turns out that my son has a genius IQ and in August he passed (with distinction) the New York State high school equivalency exam. We are now looking at colleges. I teach students of all ages, and have found the same: Most cases of nonspeaking autism are not what they were believed to be. My students are, for the most part, brilliant, empathetic, funny and in every way wonderful. At my center, we not only teach them to communicate, but we also provide education and social opportunities."

1987



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We start this column with a double dose of great news about **Leslie Vosshall.** First, Leslie has been appointed VP and chief scientific officer at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. She will lead and manage HHMI's science department portfolio, which includes the HHMI Investigator Program and the Hanna H. Gray Fellows Program. Leslie earned a Ph.D. in molecular genetics at Rockefeller University and completed a postdoctoral fellowship in the Columbia University lab of Dr. Richard Axel '67, an HHMI investigator and Nobel laureate. It was in Axel's lab



ERIC ORLINSKY

Margaret Traub '88 (left) and Dr. Diane Bauer Orlinsky '88 had an impromptu visit in Park City, Utah, on July 24.

that Leslie developed a career-long interest in how smell works. Since becoming an investigator in 2008, she has pivoted her lab's research focus to the deadly Aedes aegypti mosquito, including its biology and behavior. Leslie will maintain her lab at Rockefeller. She will begin her duties part time at HHMI in January 2022, transitioning to full time in March.

As if that wasn't enough, Leslie has also been elected to the National Academy of Medicine. Her election cited her work in building the aforementioned "yellow fever mosquito Aedes aegypti into a genetic model organism for neurobiology and uncovering major insights into how these disease-vectoring insects select and feed on the blood of human hosts."

Double congratulations to Leslie!

Good news, too, for **Magaly Colimon-Christopher,** who was awarded $5,000 through the 2021 City Artist Corps grant, a program for NYC-based working artists. Magaly was recognized for *AFTER-SHOCKS: A Tetralogy of Our Times,* a video compilation of short plays, animation and montage art she conceptualized. The show explores love and life in Caribbean-American communities in New York City during the coronavirus pandemic.

In more awesome news, **Sandy Asirvatham** recently released an album, *Innocent Monster,* which has been generating a lot of buzz. Sandy and her album were recently featured in *Rolling Stone* India: bit.ly/3oGMySS.

And because what can be better in pandemic times than MORE good news, we are sending hearty congratulations to **Karin Wolman,** who has been named among Super Lawyers for the fifth consecutive year, and also was selected by Best Lawyers in America. Both selections involve peer review and indicate being among the top 5 percent in one's practice area, which, in Karin's case, is immigration law.

Send your news to me at the email at the top of the column or via the Class Notes submission form: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note!

1988

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Lots of legacy news to report. Congratulations to **John Williamson** and his daughter Kathryn Williamson '21 on Kathryn's graduation. John is one of several classmates who is a parent of a College alum.

In the "like father, like son" category, former Columbia football star **Matt Sodl** wrote, "I have some pretty cool news: My son, Patrick Sodl, a senior linebacker at Loyola H.S. in Los Angeles, has committed to play football at Columbia. He will be a first-year in September."

Diane Orlinsky reported, "I was lucky enough to be the parent of two Covid-19 graduates (lol): my daughter Alexandra SEAS'21 and my son Charlie '20. Also, my niece Samantha Zinman '21. Her twin brother, Matthew Zinman '22, is graduating this year. My cousin Jack Muoio '24 plays on the soccer team.

"I recently finished a two-year position as president of The Johns Hopkins Medical & Surgical Alumni Association and was elected to the Johns Hopkins Alumni Leadership Council (not a traitor … colors are still blue and white!)."

Diane further noted, "I was blessed to attend the beautiful wedding of Herbert Rimerman '21, son of **Claudia Kraut Rimerman.**"

Claudia added, "Herbert graduated with a multitude of honors I'm embarrassed to cite. He was married on August 29 to Elizabeth Latham '20 Cornell. They both attend Oxford, where Herbie is working toward a master's in history at Christ Church College."

As for herself, Claudia wrote, "I live in Stamford, Conn., and am VP partnerships for a leading digital therapeutics firm based in Israel."

Diane also wrote, "I 'ran into' my dear friend **Marge Traub** when I was in Utah last July. She saw on Instagram that I was in Salt Lake City and we were able to connect."

See the nearby photo!

Shari Hyman shared the news that **Graham Dodds,** a professor of political science at Concordia University in Montreal for 17 years, has written *Mass Pardons in America: Rebellion, Presidential Amnesty, and Reconciliation.* "Again and again in the nation's history, presidents of the United States have faced the dramatic challenge of domestic insurrection and sought ways to reconcile with the rebels afterward," according to the Columbia University Press website. "This book is the first comprehensive study of how presidential mass pardons have helped put such conflicts to rest."

Graham weighed in, "It's my third book on the general topic of presidential power … Somehow it's become my lot in life to explain the mysteries of American politics to puzzled Canadians — seldom an easy task."

Dr. **John McHugh** reported, "I'm enjoying getting back to the passion that drew me to medicine so many years ago: How do we become even healthier? This fall, I was honored with the title of fellow from the American College of Lifestyle Medicine for work on connecting the foundations of diet, sleep, stress and exercise to health outcomes. Southern California is a perfect place to practice what I'm preaching with great food, sandy beaches and bike trails."

Marc McCann wrote with sadness that **Mike Zegers SEAS'88** passed away "on August 21, 2021, in Denver, where he was surrounded by his family. Mike fought a long and courageous battle with osteosarcoma, always with grace and a sense of humor."

Mike took part in an annual fantasy football draft in New York with Marc and **Doug Wolf; Ravi Singh;** Mike English SEAS'89, GSAPP'89; Dave Moson '89; and **Rob Daniel.**

1989

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[Editor's note: This issue's guest columnist is **Erik Price.**]

Maybe it's the color of the leaves or the crossroads I'm standing at, or maybe it's the baseball playoffs on TV, but October of our sophomore year has been on my mind.

It's the 10th inning of that famous 1986 World Series game, exactly 35 years ago. The Mets are mounting their historic rally against the Red Sox, and it's late in the evening on the first floor of Ruggles Hall. My suitemate, **Dave Streitfeld,** is having a moment. He's on his knees praying for a Mets victory, promising to go to synagogue if the Mets win. Miraculously, they do win. The next Friday, Dave and I attend campus Hillel for the first time and make some friends.

Dave lives with his wife, Deb, and cat, Henni, around the block from me and my wife, Paula, in Berkeley, Calif. Dave is a veteran software developer, and as ever, he continues to go deep with the things he loves. Eventually he masters them all, including playing acoustic guitar and teaching tai chi.

Across the room that night, **Jeff Udell,** a lifelong Mets fan, is screaming and punching the air. Years later, the energy is still there. A partner at a boutique litigation firm, Jeff's legal practice is booming. This spring, he'll begin teaching legal ethics at NYU Law. He's also learning "Thunder Road" on piano and runs into The Boss himself with uncanny frequency. Jeff and his wife, Lucy, a social worker, live in Harrison, N.Y. Oldest daughter, Michaela (20), is a junior at the University of Wisconsin, and just loving it. Their youngest, Daniela (11), is in goal for her soccer team and, like her dad, is enthusiastic about everything. And if you ever wake up before dawn and head out to Jones Beach, there's a good chance you'll see Jeff and his son, Alec (16), standing in the surf, casting for striped bass as the sun begins to rise.



From left, Mike Schrag '89, Dave Streitfeld '89, Erik Price '89 and Jeff Udell '89 at dinner in Oakland, Calif., on July 5.

Mike Schrag, an SF Giants fan, didn't care about the Mets or the Red Sox, but he was there, too. Mike and **Andrea Franchett,** who lived across the hall from him on Carman 5, are still together and live in Oakland, Calif. Mike writes: "Andrea is one of the last independent family physicians standing and has a thriving neighborhood practice in Oakland. I've been representing consumers in class actions against large corporations for 25 years. Having sent our kids, Oscar (24) and the twins, Ruby and Eli (21), to school on the East Coast, we are crushing empty-nest life: running the trails in the East Bay hills, traveling and seeing as much live music as we can with Erik and Paula."

Not caring much about the World Series that evening was **Patrick Murray,** a Chicago Cubs fan. He was likely playing R.E.M. albums and skimming philosophy texts. Pat writes in from Chicago that his son, Nathan (9), is thriving behind the plate in Little League and always looks natty in his uniform. (It's true, he really does.) Pat is an attorney for the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services, and volunteers as a tour guide with the Chicago Architecture Center. He's also a loyal member of the Columbia University Club of Chicago's book club. Pat sent me a CD of country music songs that are getting him through the pandemic. Yes, he still burns CDs.

Please keep the music coming, Pat.

It was wonderful to connect with Robyn Gratt Sealander BC'89, GSAPP'92, Andrea's suitemate in Ruggles. Robyn wrote in to say hello from the tiny town in Maine where she practices architecture and raises her own beef and lamb. She let me know about a virtual reunion of "Junior Studio," where she had a great time reminiscing with other Architecture School alumni. Present were Noel Williams '90, **Anita Lin, Sarah Dunn** GSAPP'94, **Aubrey Summers, Jon Sturt** and **Julie Meidinger Trelstad.** The group would love to include more Junior Studio classmates next time, so please reach out to Anita if interested: anita1227@gmail.com.

Stop the presses! In early November, **Duchesne Drew** was made a University Trustee, bringing to five the number of our classmates serving on that body. Duchesne joins **Lisa Landau Carnoy, Victor Mendelson, Wanda Holland Greene** TC'21 and **Julie Jacobs Menin.** Some readers of *CCT* might remember the excellent profile of Duchesne published in the Winter 2020–21 issue, when he was named president of Minnesota Public Radio. In that article he said it best: "I'm a Head Start kid who went to Columbia and Northwestern. I've been with my wife for 25 years. I've had a great run, and I'm not done."

Congratulations and thank you, Duchesne.

Jon Tukman BUS'98 and his wife, Mary Beth, live in Telluride, Colo. "I run the Avalanche Forecasting and Mitigation program for the Telluride Ski Resort," writes Jon. "We have a large operation that includes a couple of WWII-era 105MM Howitzers to help reduce avalanche hazard." Anyone who visited the cozy Cucamonga wing of Ruggles, where Jon and friends lived, will remember the family vibe there. I was glad to discover that Jon and his suitemate **Ethan Nosowsky** married women who are first cousins, so they are now actually in the same family! Ethan lives in Oakland with his wife and two young daughters and is editorial director of Graywolf Press.

Bernard Ravina and **Joanna Ravina** (née Lapkin) wrote in with more proof that true love could be found in the Columbia dorms. Bernard and Joanna, my neighbors from Carman 11, have been together ever since. "We are fortunate to have three great kids," Bernard writes. "Sam recently graduated from Davidson College and is on the way to San Francisco to work at Wedbush Securities in equity research. Sophie, after finishing freshman year at Colgate, is rock climbing in Utah and doing environmental studies for a semester. Leo is a sophomore in high school and a great drummer. Joanna is a clinical psychologist with a private practice in Newton, Mass., and I am chief medical officer at a biotech in Boston. We recently saw **Andy Hoffman** and his two great kids when they were visiting from the United Kingdom. We'd be delighted to connect with any Class of '89 Columbians in the Boston area."

Sue Loring-Crane LAW'92 reported from Homecoming 2021, where she enjoyed running into **Chris Della Pietra, Donna MacPhee, John MacPhee** and **Bo Hansen SEAS'89.** Sue is still on the stat crew for the football team and officiates the finish line at home rowing races. Professionally, she's had a long career as an IP counsel. Sue added: "My husband, Hugh Crane '88, and I were thrilled to finally move our son, John '24, into his room in Broadway Hall, the dorm built in 2000. He unfortunately spent his freshman year on the Randolph, N.J., campus of Columbia University. Turns out he lives down the hall from **Frank Seminara**'s son, Luke."

Now that sounds like a fun hallway.

"All good in Atlanta," **Dave Kooby** writes, "Eighteen years later, I'm still on staff at Emory as a professor of surgery, treating awesome people with cancer and training the surgeons who will take care of us. I'm spending as much time as possible with my fiancée, Jodi Green, and my kids Dylan (16) and Sienna (14), whom I gently dragged for a walk across the Brooklyn Bridge last summer, while I tortured them with the history of the bridge, reminiscent of the 'all-night bike ride' from Kenneth Jackson's 'History of the City of New York' class."

Jesús Escobar shared this news: "I started my 13th year at Northwestern this fall, my first as a full professor of art history. My godson is a sophomore here, and my niece started college at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo [in the fall]. So now I feel I really understand my current undergrads or at least empathize with them in whole new ways — yes, I'm becoming a pushover." Jesús's second book, *Habsburg Madrid: Architecture and the Spanish Monarchy,* will be published in April.

"It's been a long time since graduation," notes **Edieal Pinker,** "but I have been fortunate to have been able to spend a lot of time on the Columbia campus over the years as an academic (now deputy dean of the Yale School of Management) coming to conferences hosted by Columbia, or as a parent visiting my kids, a daughter in SEAS'18 and a son in CC'21. I stay in touch with dear friends **Michael Young** and **Naomi Hanser,** and we all miss the late, great **Ben W. Harris SEAS'89,** whom we lost much too soon."

Samantha Jouin is running for reelection to her local school board in what has turned out to be a very trying time to do so: Let's wish her luck! She is otherwise coming to grips with having one child out of college already (BC'21) and another already in his junior year.

Galen Sorrells is a public interest attorney in San Francisco, and a mediator and lawyer for the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing and the California Lawyers for the Arts. He notes that "the professional work is great, but classmates are probably most curious about the fact that my identical twins recently turned 6. No retirement for me any time soon."

Mahinder Kingra is appearing for the first time in *CCT.* In his role as the editorial director at Cornell University Press, Mahinder has had the great pleasure of working with poet, writer, editor and fellow Ithaca, N.Y., resident David Lehman '70 on two books.

Thanks for letting us know about this Columbia collaboration, Mahinder.

Finally, we have another new Lion enrolling next academic year, courtesy of **Daniel Laifer** and his family. "I never moved that far from Columbia," writes Daniel. "I live on the Upper West Side with my wife and three kids. My oldest, after complet-

ing a gap year abroad this year, will enter with the Class of 2026!"

Thank you so much, **Emily Miles Terry,** for letting me pinch-hit for you in this edition, and thank you for your years of service keeping the Class of '89 connected.

1990

Rachel Cowan Jacobs
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I am bursting with gratitude for everyone who wrote with updates and news, many for their first time (just like last column). In fact, I had so many people write that I exceeded my word limit and am forced to defer some classmates' news until the next issue. But for now, let's get to it!

Last spring, **Chris Harwood** GSAS'00 was promoted to senior lecturer in Czech in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures at Columbia. His son, Jáchym '24, finished his freshman year, all on Zoom.

News from **Andrew Glenn!** "After graduating from law school in 1995, I was an associate at Debevoise & Plimpton, and then made partner at Kasowitz Benson Torres. In February 2020, six of my partners at Kasowitz and I decided to form a firm — Glenn Agre Bergman & Fuentes — focusing on bankruptcy, complex commercial litigation and white-collar crime. We started up during the pandemic, which was challenging and exciting, but we've been fortunate that we've already had some great successes, including representing hedge funds that bought Hertz out of its historic bankruptcy. One of my partners is Michael Bowen, an awesome trial lawyer and **Judy Shampanier** LAW'93's husband. Judy and I had a great time catching up on all things Columbia at our firm's launch party. Other Columbia alumni represented by the firm include my partner, Jed Bergman LAW'97; his wife, Jennifer Pepper GS'93; and our litigation manager, Ed Lee '00. My wife, Risa, and I have been married for 25 years and have five great children."

Peter Hasapis writes, "I've been lucky enough to have been practicing internal medicine in the town I grew up in, New Canaan, Conn., for 20-plus years. My wife, Jessica, and I have three children and live in nearby Westchester County. But the big Columbia-related news in our house is that my daughter Elizabeth '25 lives on Carman 12, just three floors above where I lived freshman year. She is loving it so far. Our other children are William, a junior at Cornell, and Ryan (13), who is missing his siblings. Sometimes. My former roommate **Jay Myers** also has a daughter who is a first-year in the College. Jay and I; Jay's wife, Kelly; and our daughters met up in NYC the night before drop-off and Convocation, and enjoyed a nice hearty meal. At drop-off and Convocation we ran into **Mike Fahey,** Michelle Jacobson Goldberg '91 and of course the indefatigable Mike Behringer '89."

Elliott Graham Ph.D. has worked for James Bell Associates, a health and human services consulting firm based in Arlington, Va., for 17 years from his home office in Saint Paul, Minn. He and his wife, Cynthia Conley, recently celebrated their 18th wedding anniversary. When he isn't working or spending time with his family, Elliott can be found riding a backroad on his motorcycle or overseeing the restoration of his 1984 Pontiac Firebird Trans Am (and is sure that David Hasselhoff would be proud!).

Scott Hall SIPA '92 says, "All is going well here. I live in Chester, N.J., with my family, and I run a bulk spice importing business that I started 20-plus years ago (Occidental International Foods). Business is thriving. We're expanding our warehouse space to accommodate increased volume. My international travels stopped abruptly with the pandemic and I have yet to begin traveling again. I'm hopeful that this year things will return to normal. My son Kent SEAS'22 is finally back in live classes after being remote since the spring semester sophomore year. He has done remarkably well in computer science and has been a TA for operating systems and advanced programming since his sophomore year. He has a job offer already in Silicon Valley, so looks like he'll be heading out west next summer. My daughter Samantha is a sophomore at Northeastern, and my youngest son, Evan, is a freshman in high school."

Vivian Jonokuchi was going to wait to see if she graduated before writing but figured, no time like the present. She has come back to Morningside Heights. "After raising four children in the suburbs of Connecticut, I am finally an empty-nester, and my husband and I have moved back to the Upper West Side. I am thrilled to be a master's candidate in applied physiology at Teachers College! Learning to expand my comfort zone to include reading for more than an hour is, well, challenging. Also, I believe I am testing the limits of neuroplasticity as I learn Excel. The eldest of my four kids, Dr. Alex Jonokuchi '14, is a third-year resident in pediatric neurology at NewYork Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia University Medical Center and serves as an inspiration to help this English major discover that it's never too late to become a scientist."

Ariel Kronman, who is at Weil, Gotshal & Manges, reports, "My wife, Lin, and I celebrated our 20th anniversary last August. And a few days later, our Greenwich Village apartment became a half-empty nest, when our son set off for MIT. So, after lawyering from home through the pandemic I now have a home office, at least until Liam came back for Thanksgiving. Actually, it's all coming full circle, as his room was my library back when my hair was pepper and not salt. I can finally bring many of my books up from the basement. The pride of my collection are works on Chinese calligraphy, seal carving and poetry, the appreciation of which I owe to the wonderful teachers I had at Columbia, including the late, great Gari Ledyard, Hans Bielenstein and of course Ted de Bary '41, GSAS'53, in addition to Marilyn Wong-Gleysteen, Paul Rouzer and Dawn Delbanco. In other family news, our daughter, Ella, is a junior at Hunter College H.S. She's been enjoying a science honors program at Columbia and maybe, just maybe, our cub will be the next Lion in the family."

Carol "Kate" Guess's most recent short story collection, a collaboration with Aimee Parkison titled *Girl Zoo,* was published in 2019. She has a new collection of short stories, *Sleep Tight Satellite,* forthcoming. Carol teaches in the MFA Creative Writing program at Western Washington University and lives in Seattle.

John Graves lives near Seattle with his wife, Melissa, and sons, Henry (11) and Wesley (7). What's keeping him busy? "Some things I'm working on include helping **John Kelly** JRN'10 build Graphika, as board chairman of that 32-person company, which has become a recognized leader in disinformation detection/risk assessment for social media platforms and brands. It's been a wild ride! I recently left the Washington State Investment Board after 10 years, where I co-founded the Real Assets team and invested ridiculous sums of money in private partnerships like Global Infrastructure Partners, I Squared Capital and Orion Resource Partners."

Our final news comes from **Kristin Friedholm Bissinger.** "I went to law school, graduating in 1994, and in 1995, I married Mike Bissinger '88. After practicing law for 17 years in New York (Goodwin Procter) and New Jersey (Novartis



MIRANDA CHADWICK

Left to right, Jeremy Buchman '91, May Cowan BC'95; Jennifer Cowan BC'91, Judy Shampanier '90, Robin Wald SEAS'90, Rachel Cowan Jacobs '90; Ben Jacobs '93, Ruth Schwartz Cowan BC'61, Edward Cowan '54, Laura Marks '90 and Joel Tranter '90 (plus, not pictured, German Gomez '90, Laura Shaw Frank '90 and Sharon Rogers '90), gathered for a bat mitzvah at the Ohr Kodesh Congregation in Chevy Chase, Md., on August 19.

Pharmaceuticals), we made a move to Greenville, S.C., in 2010 to slow down and allow us/me to spend more time with our three girls. I have done some tutoring during the last 10 years (mainly assisting dyslexic students). Mike and I have one daughter who is a junior at Cornell, one who is a senior in high school and one who is a freshman in high school. I spent some time with Deirdre Flynn '92, LAW'95 at the Columbia vs. Cornell women's soccer game in Ithaca. It was so great to see the Columbia women play and to reconnect with Deirdre and a few other former teammates (Julie Davidson '93, Susan Kerr Bernal BC'91 and Joan Campion '92). I have kept in touch with **Lynn Murphy** and **Jenny Thompson Harvey** through the years and although we don't get to see each other all that often, we did attend Lynn's wedding in Napa Valley a few years ago. I also spent time with Janis Linos Jarosz BC'89; her husband, Paul; Donna MacPhee '89; and John MacPhee '89 while in Houston pre-pandemic for soccer with my daughter. It was so great to see them."

It is always great to see college friends! I was lucky to hang out with a few at my daughter's bat mitzvah, finally held in August after a 15-month pandemic-induced postponement. As I'm prone to do, I had Columbia alumni gather for a photo. Three people were MIA, yet we still had 11 in the picture. Very satisfying. Looking to the future, let us all hope that the worst of Covid-19 is behind us and that only good news will greet us around the corner.



Contact CCT

Update your address, email or phone; submit a Class Note, new book, photo, obituary or Letter to the Editor; or send us an email. Click "Contact Us" at **college.columbia.edu/cct.**

1991

Heather E.G. Brownlie
heatherhj@yahoo.com

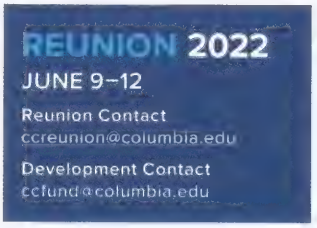
Heather E.G. Brownlie writes: "I encourage all classmates to submit their news and notes to me at heatherhj@yahoo.com or via the Class Notes submission form, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note! Wherever you are and whatever you are doing we want to hear from you, so please take a moment to submit today! It has been so great to hear from so many of you over the past year — please keep up the good work!"

Jack Cheng submitted: "An update for *CCT*! My first! After graduating as an art history major, I got a Ph.D. in the subject and then in 2001 began teaching in the Clemente Course in the Humanities, a one-year, mini-core curriculum offered to low-income adult students and accredited by Bard College. I teach an art history survey, not unlike Art Hum, and students from age 20–70-plus also take philosophy, literature, American history and writing courses. About five years ago, a local documentary filmmaker, James Rutenbeck (who received an Alfred I. duPont–Columbia University Award for his work) asked to film in our classroom. He then followed two of our graduates for the next four years as they navigated their lives in Boston and reflected on the humanities. The film, *A Reckoning in Boston,* has been garnering high praise and awards, and was broadcast nationally on PBS's Independent Lens on January 17, Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Anyone who appreciates the Core Curriculum and believes it makes a difference in people's lives is encouraged to watch this film. And you can go to clementecourse.org to find out how to start a Clemente Course near you — there are already dozens across the country — or donate your time or money to support a local course. Thanks for watching!"

Michael Feldschuh sent a quick note: "My wife, Alicia, and I have been splitting our time between Upstate New York (Sloatsburg) and NYC. We love the nature and peaceful scenery and have been embracing the paradigm of remote work as the new normal."

Christopher Front GSAS'93 wrote in: "Last year, just in time for Covid-19, I became assistant head of school for academic affairs at John Burroughs School (St. Louis), where I have worked since 2002. Planning and coordinating the school's response to Covid (distance learning, hybrid learning, modified hybrid) was a trial by fire, but thankfully we started the year with 100 percent of the faculty/staff and an unbelievable 98 percent of the student body vaccinated, so we're close to normal. Shoutout to all the other educators in our class."

1992



Olivier Knox
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Hello, classmates! Don't forget: We're steaming towards our 30th (gulp) reunion this spring. Watch for emails and check out our Facebook class group (bit.ly/3CEAsPd).

Now to the business at hand.

My friend **Peter Hatch** wrote in about a significant professional shift. After more than seven years in City Hall, including a pandemic stint as NYC's Covid-19 Public-Private Partnership "Czar," Peter was named by former Mayor Bill de Blasio as commissioner of the Department of Consumer and Worker Protection (DCWP), the oldest and largest municipal consumer protection agency in the country.

"We license and regulate 59,000 businesses in more than 50 industries, enforce the city's strong Consumer Protection Law and enforce groundbreaking workplace laws, including those that provide the right to paid sick leave, fair scheduling and protections for workers not traditionally covered by labor laws, like freelancers, domestic workers and delivery workers," Peter wrote. "DCWP also pioneered the field of municipal financial empowerment and exemplifies how a city can prioritize the financial health of its residents with programs that provide free financial counseling, tax prep and help claiming valuable tax credits. I could not be more proud to help lead this work."

Peter adds: "On the Columbia front, during our summer travels, my wife, **Hilary Hatch,** and I were able to catch up with **J[ason] Schwartz** in the Hudson Valley and **Farnaz Vossoughian, Hilary Semel,** Josh Levy '94 and Christopher Sheridan GS'90 in Montauk.

"This past fall it was great to reconnect with other members of our Reunion Committee: **Joanna Della Valle** (née Jacovini), whose daughter is a ninth-grade classmate of our older daughter, and **Dan Herman,** who was in from Los Angeles visiting his son at Columbia."

I also heard from **Maria Ramirez Jurgens,** who recently moved to Rumson, N.J., after three decades of living in Manhattan. That has "put some physical distance" between her and Morningside Heights, but she remains an active Columbia community member. Maria is a member of the Board of Friends of the Double Discovery Center (DDC), helping organize fundraising that supports the not-for-profit's college preparation programming for teens from Harlem and Washington Heights. She also is an active member of the Board of Columbia College Women and a Class Agent for the Columbia College Fund. If you're interested in volunteering with or donating to DDC, or you're a Monmouth County resident looking to connect with fellow alums living by the Jersey Shore, Maria can be reached at mer33@caa.columbia.edu.

David Aserkoff reported in. "I live in London (25-plus years now), where I enjoy replying to personalised Class Notes emails and reading *The Washington Post* online to see my classmates' work."

Yes, personalised with an "s."

David continues: "I have not seen **John Henick** since he flew here from Uzbekistan to see a dentist; he also bought a dozen avocados on that trip. Carman 9 veterans and other CC'92ers should drop me a line if they're in town."

In a subsequent email, David added: "The Henick story is true. Both the dentist and the vegetables."

Do you have a tale to tell about a visiting classmate? A dentist? Produce? Drop me a line at olivier.knox@gmail.com. This column only works when you write in!

1993

Neil Turitz
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When last I entered your mailbox, surrounded by notes from lesser classes than ours, I offered the sad news that **Mike Sardo** had died, after spending half his life battling cancer and related health issues. Since Mike's death came right after the deadline for the last issue, I promised I'd write more about him in this one, which I will do directly, but first some more tragic news: Fellow football team alum **Dennis Lafferty** BUS'01 died of ALS in August.

I knew both men fairly well in college, less so in the years afterward, though Dennis and I would often run into each other on the Upper West Side throughout the '90s and into the early aughts. Both guys were wonderful, lovely human beings, the kind of guys who made you feel good just being around them. Mike was famous for wearing shorts in any weather — literally *any* weather — and never having a bad word to say about anyone. Dennis actually wore pants, but he had a similar attitude about life.

I asked two close friends of theirs to talk about them here, to do them justice better than I could. First up is **Chad Moore**, writing about Mike:

"Mike was a special kind of person. On the field, he was a smart, fearless and tough-as-nails receiver whom you could always count on to make the big catch. He didn't talk big, he walked big. He was a team-first player who never took a play off, never took a day off. He just showed up, did his job and took care of business. I'm proud to say that I shared the same field with him. By the end of his final season, he was fifth on the Columbia all-time career receptions list.

"But it was off the field where Mike really made his mark with me. Mike was always a quiet guy. He did his best to stay out of the spotlight. He didn't want to be the center of attention. But if you got to know him, you started to realize that there was a lot going on under the surface. He had a great sense of humor. He was quick with a smile. He told a great story if you could coax it out of him. But most importantly, he was a great friend.

"For those of you who knew Mike — I'm sure you have stories just like this. For those of you who didn't — suffice it say that Mike was one of the good ones. A good man, and an even better friend, husband and father. The world is poorer without him in it. He was the best of us."

I also talked to **Scott Spivey**, about Dennis. Here's what he had to say:

"Four years of football together and a cherished friend and brother in the Sigma Alpha Mu fraternity. From a football perspective, he was big, and could run forever. He typically pissed everyone off during conditioning, because we would have to keep up with him and it sucked! Most of all, he was just a great kid from Buffalo and loved his Bills and Sabres.

"He was an excellent example of work hard/play hard, never shorted on fun, but was serious about school and got his M.B.A. at Columbia, too. He had a successful run at Goldman Sachs, where he spent most of his career and where he met his wife, Ellen Winkler, with whom he had four kids. He battled ALS for two years, and is gone way too soon."

Just like last time, there's no easy segue, other than to say that both Mike and Dennis loved Columbia, and clearly made lifelong friendships there, something the next generation of CC students will also get to experience. My Carman 11 floormate **Lorenzo Wyatt** BUS'02 dropped off his daughter Milei '25 for the start of her time in Morningside Heights, telling me, "I have always loved Columbia. I am blessed that Milei will share an experience and love that has been so transformative in our lives."

[Editor's note: See "Obituaries" for more on Sardo and Lafferty.]

My fellow *Spectator* alums **Kristina Nye** and **Arthur Weise** also dropped off their kids, with one having an easier time than the other. Arthur emailed, "Kristina and I recently moved our daughter into East Campus's old hotel, now called the Townhouses, for her senior year. It is likely the best housing on campus, really quite spacious and private."

Clearly much better than it was my sophomore year, when it was a pit, but that's neither here nor there.

Arthur continues: "We had previously moved our son into McBain on the day of the flood. His first night in a dorm, sophomore year, McBain flooded. Welcome to Columbia!"

Meanwhile, we have several classmates doing new and exciting things. Old pal **Rod Azar** is now on the school board in Abington Heights, Pa. He was appointed to the board in October 2020 after another board member resigned, then won a proper election last spring.

It's a complicated and challenging time to be a school board member with all the Covid-19 issues," he told me, "but it's certainly one of the best ways to give back to your local community."

Speaking of helping the community, another Carman 11 alum, **Joseph Ori**, founded a cannabis company in 2018. The Michigan-based operation is 70,000 sq. ft. of "state-of-the art indoor cultivation, processing and multiple brand lines," Joe said. "We recently became a multi-state operator, having won licenses in Illinois." Joe and his five partners now have their eyes set on New York and Arizona. "We are dedicated to having the art of cultivation meet the science of creating completely pure, toxin-free cannabis products for both medical and recreational use." Joe is the director of communications and thought leadership, as well as general counsel, though that last one is temporary.

Another pal, **Lucy Ruwtich Langer**, is leaving behind clinical medicine to take on the role of national medical director for oncology and genomics for UnitedHealthcare. This, after practicing for 14 years and being practice president for Compass Oncology in Portland, Ore., for eight years, as well as chairing the National Policy Board for the US Oncology Network for six. "I hope I can play at least a small part in the transformation of the U.S. healthcare system by helping patients with cancer receive the best possible care and at the same time make sure cancer care remains affordable for all," she told me. An econ major, Lucy says that a particular class that highlighted the imperfect sharing of information among physician, patient and payer is why she became a doctor in the first place, so "this new role is bringing me full circle. And I get to work from home, so my kids who are in ninth and 12th grade don't have to move."

On the creative side, **Suzette Holder Batista** SIPA'95, married to **Miguel Batista** BUS'99 for 24 years now, is an in-house tax attorney as her day job, but also self-publishes a series of children's nonfiction books. Her latest, which came out November 16, is *Hao and Sabine Buy the World's Currencies*. "Basically, it's a cross-continental global adventure where my two young protagonists learn about the currencies of every country and territory in the world," she said. "But being philomaths, they cover so much more than currencies, including global climate change."

And finally, another old friend, and stalwart volleyballer, **Gretchen Mull Hudson** PH'97, wrote in to offer her first-ever update! She did so after reading the Fall 2021 issue, so let this be a lesson to the rest of you: IT IS NEVER TOO LATE! (Sorry I yelled, but come on! This is good stuff!) Anyway, after graduation, Gretchen did two years in the Peace Corps in rural China, returned to Columbia for a master's in public health policy and administration, got a job with a software company based in Birmingham and has been there ever since. She is a director of IT for a national behavioral health company that is a subsidiary of Anthem, has been married for almost 22 years and has two sons, Jack (19) and Kees (17). Jack is working to be an auto mechanic, while Kees will attend the University of Alabama next fall. "Overall," she said, "life is good."

It sure is, Gretchen. Thanks for reaching out, and thanks to everyone else who did this issue, as well. For the next issue, I expect more of you to do the same. If you don't, I will be forced to give a blow by blow account of my flights to and from Hawaii. Not the honeymoon, mind you, but *the flights,* one of which is a red-eye. And, I'll draw it out to 1,500 words. No one wants this, so consider yourself warned.

1994

Leyla Kokmen
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Send me your news for a future column! Please use the email above or send updates via the Class Notes webform (college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note).

Photos and captions should be submitted directly to *CCT* using the Class Notes photo webform (college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo).

Best wishes for the New Year.

1995

Janet Lorin
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Thanks to **Daniel Krisch** for sending an update. I remember Dan from *Spectator,* where he was co-sports editor. He was recently selected for inclusion in The Best Lawyers in America 2022 list. A partner at Halloran Sage and chair of the firm's appellate practice group, he received recognition for his appellate and insurance law practices. Best Lawyers lists are compiled based on peer-review evaluation.

Dan earned a J.D. cum laude from the University of Connecticut. He is co-author of *The Encyclopedia of Connecticut Causes of Action,* is an elected member of the American Law Institute and has taught moot court and appellate advocacy at the University of Connecticut School of Law. He also co-authored *Connecticut Superior Court Civil Rules, Annotated* and *Connecticut Superior Court Juvenile Rules, Annotated.*

Dan and his wife, Sophia, have three kids: Felix (5), Evelyn (3) and Estelle (7 months).

Beto O'Rourke, the former congressman from El Paso who ran for President in 2020, is now trying his hand in the Texas governor's race. He's challenging the "ultraconservative policies and anti-immigrant rhetoric" of the current officeholder, Gov. Greg Abbott. *The New York Times* called it "a long-shot bid to win an office Democrats last occupied in 1995."

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1996

Ana Salper
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Hello, my classmates! I hope this winter finds you healthy and well. It has been a long year, hasn't it? Here is to a happy, peaceful and healthy 2022!

On January 13, **Liz Yuan** JRN'98 moderated a Columbia College Women virtual talk, "Cocktails with a Curator," featuring one of our own distinguished classmates, **Alice Tseng.** Alice is a professor of Japanese art and architecture at Boston University. She discussed modern Japanese woodblock prints during the virtual talk. At the time this was written (this past fall), Liz hoped to "see" some of you there!

Alice shares that she and **Derrick Choi** have one daughter, Clara, who played Clara in *The Nutcracker* for the Brookline Ballet School in December.

Marc Menendez is busy continuing his entrepreneurial career, having built and sold eight privately held and founded companies in 20-plus years. Marc is general manager and chief solutions officer for Data Dimensions. His oldest son attends Emerson College in Massachusetts, studying communications, marketing and business; he also plays lacrosse for the school. Marc's youngest son attends Culver Academies in Indiana, and is a starter for its nationally ranked prep lacrosse team. Marc and his family still live in Naperville, Ill.; it's been 21-plus years since moving there from NYC, but they are looking to relocate somewhere warmer soon. Marc has been in touch with some Columbia colleagues, including Joe Cormier '98, Gary Edmonds '95, John Jennings '94, Scott Roetter, **Jake Lill, Jim Lill, Linda Pyo Cavalier** and Penelope Kliegman '94, as well as Coach Erv Chambliss and Coach Keith Clark (now coaching at Dartmouth).

I was happy to hear from **Nick Kukrika,** who is a partner at Generation Investment Management, investing in tech companies. He lives in London with his family; his son Theo is 4 and his daughter Maria is 8.

This past fall Nick enjoyed helping move his nephew into Carman Hall 4, and was reminded of how small those dorm rooms are.

Ahh, yes, those cinderblock walls ... Remember those, my fellow Carman classmates?

Nick's nephew rows crew and is very excited about the team and about being at Columbia.

Melis Behlil is the head of the Radio, TV and Cinema Department at Kadir Has University in Istanbul. She also has a weekly radio show as a film critic. Melis invites classmates to reach out to her if they find themselves in Istanbul!

Will Savage remarried in December 2020 in a backyard wedding with close family followed by a "blow-out post vaccination celebration" at The Institute of Contemporary Art in Boston. Will was recently promoted to chief medical officer at Disc Medicine, a hematology biotech in the Boston area.

Congratulations, Will!

Gregory Peck lives in Sherman Oaks with his son, Otis (10), who's in fifth grade. Greg owns and operates the Crescent Hotel in Beverly Hills, and is developing a large mixed-use hospitality project in Inglewood next to the new SoFi Stadium and the site for the new Clippers Arena (the Intuit Dome). He writes that he misses Columbia and all our classmates.

Pamela Laufer-Ukeles, married to **Meir Ukeles,** writes that after 10 years as a law professor at the University of Dayton School of Law, she and her family moved full-time to Israel, where she is a professor of law and healthcare administration at the Academic Center for Law and Science (fka Sha'arei Mishpat College) in Hod HaSharon, Israel. Pamela has a recently published book, *Global Reflections on Children's Rights: 30 Years After the Convention on Rights of the Child,* co-edited with Ellen Marrus, that is a collection of essays from around the globe on the progress of children's rights legislation.

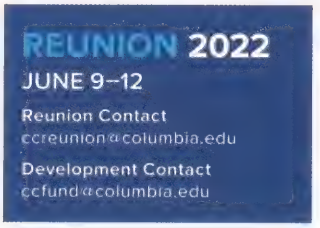
I'll round out these notes by sharing that I had a great time hanging out with **Whitney Berkholtz Chiate** at Homecoming this past fall. Whitney flew to NYC from sunny Malibu, and it was such a treat to see her. We introduced our youngest kids to each other: my Max (12) and her Benton (10) caught up.

Thanks to all of you for responding to my mass outreach for notes. Keep them coming! I leave you with this:

Now is the winter of our discontent
Made glorious summer by this
son of York;
And all the clouds that low'r'd
upon our house
In the deep bosom of the
ocean buried.

— *William Shakespeare,* Richard III

1997



Kerensa Harrell
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Dear classmates, I hope that you all had a wonderful autumn. First, we have two pieces of College news:

1) Our 25th reunion is coming up in the late spring!

2) As of this past fall, alma mater now places second in *U.S. News & World Report*'s annual rankings of the nation's best colleges! This is our highest ranking ever. We currently share the number 2 spot with Harvard and MIT (Princeton is number 1).

I am delighted to present the following updates from classmates.

Eviatar Yemini is joining the UMass Chan Medical School in January as an assistant professor of neurobiology.

Rushika Richards Conroy HN'00 writes: "I am a pediatric endocrinologist and weight management physician at a hospital in Springfield, Mass. I have been here for 10 years. I live with my husband and kids (14, 12 and 10). I am trying to be the typical superhuman, working full time, taking kids to their activities, joining their schools' PTOs or being class mom, cooking and cleaning, remembering birthdays and anniversaries and still having time to exercise, binge-watch bad TV and see my friends and family. I enjoy work, as I get to spend most of my time doing what I love, which is managing kids with obesity

and type 2 diabetes. I do mostly clinical work with a bit of research as well. With Covid-19 there has been a surge in cases of pediatric type 2 diabetes and obesity, which has left us with more patients than we can handle, but we are doing our best to get everyone seen and cared for. I am so sad watching my kids grow. Gone are the little voices and cute faces and hugs and kisses all the time. They have been replaced by teen attitude, eye rolling and an occasional hug or kiss. It is amazing to watch them grow into these wonderful people but I miss when they were little ones."

Dorraine Hemchand Burrell writes: "I am proud to be appointed the volunteer board chair of HealthRight International's Development Committee. HealthRight is a global health NGO started by Dr. Jonathan Mann more than 30 years ago that supports the growth of community-based, sustainable healthcare systems in marginalized areas. I welcome fellow alumni to learn more by contacting me."

Monique Chang writes: "I and Dan Russo GS'96, BUS'98 are in Greenwich, Conn., with a middle-schooler. While many families acquired pandemic pets, we acquired prepper chickens. The chickens have us swimming in eggs, so the eggs go to neighbors and colleagues, and I make quiches and Boston creams. I took electrician classes right before the pandemic shut everything down, and have been rewiring and upgrading two old houses. I would love to discuss trades education and the state of skills imbalance as craftsmen and tradespeople begin retiring."

Petros Babasikas shares the following link with news about himself: bit.ly/3c6Oyy1.

As for me, **Kerensa Harrell**, I decided not to travel last summer due to the pandemic. As I sit here finishing this column it is late October, and I'm looking forward to taking my daughter trick-or-treating on Halloween night. She is almost 5, and I'm so glad that I've been able to be a full-time mother to her since she was born, because I just really don't want to part with her! Luckily I don't have to send her to kindergarten until next year because being an October baby she narrowly missed the age cutoff for the start of this school year. In the meantime, we are keeping busy with a bunch of other activities for her. She started her second year of martial arts (Korean taekwondo), as well as ballet and tap dance, which look so adorable at this age, and I also added a tumbling (pre-gymnastics) class to her schedule. She's now in her second year of Girl Scouts as a Daisy. And since Cub Scouts recently became coeducational, she started doing that too, as a Lion, and I volunteer as the den leader for her Lion den. Also, we tried Little League this past fall, in addition to weekly sign language (ASL) lessons with a private tutor.

Since it's Halloween time as I wrap up this column, and we are headed to baseball practice, I will now cue the "Supermassive Black Hole" song, from that famous vampire baseball film scene, as I sign off ("Glaciers melting in the dead of night ...").

I hope you are all enjoying a wonderful winter season by the time you read this!

Blessings to all, please say safe during the pandemic and do send us your updates.

In lumine Tuo videbimus lumen.

1998

Sandie Angulo Chen
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I apologize for the short note but hope everyone is having a good winter.

My short-and-sweet update is to congratulate **Rob Travis**, who got married in 2019 and has a new job. He has accepted a position serving as the rector of St. Mary's Episcopal Church in High Point, N.C. Rob began his post in November, leaving Wakefield, R.I., and the two churches he served there since 2015. On October 12, 2019, Rob married Leah Franklin in St. Augustine's Church in Kingston, R.I., and their families were united. Rob and Leah have seven children between them from previous marriages. Alums in attendance included **Peter Dixon-Moses SEAS'98**; his wife, Jessica Williams '00; and their children.

Congratulations, Rob, on your new beginnings!

Please send updates to me via the *CCT* Class Notes submission webform (college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note), and they'll end up in a future column!

1999

Lauren Gershell
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Hi everyone! I am thrilled with the outpouring of news from so many of you for this issue. Please continue to reach out with your fantastic updates!

Andy Newcomer shared the heartwarming news that in 2019, he and his husband became foster parents to a patient at UCLA Mattel Children's Hospital, where he works in the UCLA Department of Pediatrics. The infant was 7 months old at the time and had been dialysis-dependent his whole life. This past fall, at nearly 3, he finally got a kidney transplant and is doing wonderfully. Andy noted that his son's bravery and resilience have been a real bright spot in a difficult year.

Shazi Visram BUS'04 wrote, "After last year, I feel closer to 100 than 44! My husband, Joe, and I have two kids, Asha (5) and Zane (11), who has very real autism. It has been a challenge and a gift, and our journey has inspired me on every level to focus on supporting maternal and infant health in all I do. After having left as CEO of happybaby (the organic baby food company I founded in 2003) in 2018, I decided to torture myself for the good of humanity and new parents just one more time to help create safe environments for babies to thrive in today's world. We launched a line of brain-safe organic baby essentials like diapers and skin care at healthybaby.com in late 2020 to share a lot of the things I wish I had known about babies' development and brain health in the early days to make a proactive difference. We have activities, parenting support and a lot of wood to chop in Tribeca! Crazy times to start a business, but for those of you who know me, I've always been a little crazy. I would love it if anyone who has inspired ideas or is looking for work would reach out. And if any classmates have a baby in diapers, please send me your address so I can hook you up with the good stuff. Sending warmest wishes to everyone."

In August, **Avi Meyerstein**; his wife, Dana BC'99, JTS'99; and their three daughters moved to Israel for a year where Avi is working with the organization he founded in 2003, the Alliance for Middle East Peace, partly supported by a Fulbright. ALLMEP is a coalition of more than 150 organizations and tens of thousands of Israelis and Palestinians building people-to-people cooperation and partnerships among their communities. Avi is working with the ALLMEP team to build out the infrastructure that will enable dramatically scaling up and amplifying this field, especially following the recent bipartisan passage by Congress of the Nita M. Lowey Middle East Partnership for Peace Act, which they led in advancing and which provides $250 million to invest in these efforts.

Andy Newcomer '99's son, nearly 3, recently got a kidney transplant and is doing wonderfully. His son's bravery and resilience have been a bright spot in a difficult year.

This past fall, the Journalism School announced in a press release that **Daniel Alarcón**, an assistant professor of journalism, a celebrated novelist and co-creator of the award-winning Spanish-language podcast Radio Ambulante, was named a 2021 MacArthur Fellow. Read more: bit.ly/3DgtuB9.

Those of us in the tri-state area are familiar with the career of **Jennifer Maxfield Ostfeld** JRN'00, who has been a reporter for NBC New York for eight years. Jennifer wanted to update our class about a special profile that she did on her friend **Joseph Della Pietra**, who was killed on 9-11 while working at Cantor Fitzgerald. Jen shares, "Joe was one of the first people I met at Columbia when we were freshmen and both living on the seventh floor of Carman. He was such an outgoing and friendly person. I think about him all the time, and what a wonderful guy he was. **James Koutras** and **Mary Vouyiouklis**, who also went to high

school with Joe, helped connect me with Lisa Della Pietra, Joe's older sister, who is featured in the story: bit.ly/30pu01x."

Erika Jaeggli (née Moravec) is an artist and lives in Dallas with her husband, Nelson Jaeggli '97, PS'04, and their two teenagers. Last spring, Erika received an award from the Dallas Museum of Art to fund travel and research into the cave systems of Texas, which are the subject of her recent work.

Christopher Dye practices classical Chinese medicine, acupuncture and Chinese herbology in downtown Manhattan. He writes, "When I first began my practice, the entry level was a master's and national board certification, which I fulfilled studying with Jeffrey C. Yuen, an 88th generation priest of the Jade Purity sect of Daoism. In the 17 years since, the profession has started moving to a doctoral level. I'm playing my part for the profession and for my patients. I went back to school and earned a doctorate in acupuncture from Pacific College of Health and Science."

Dominique Sasson is a senior VP at Citi and was recently appointed a senior credit officer (SCO). There are only about 500 people globally within the Institutional Clients Group at Citi who have achieved this designation, and Dominique had to successfully pass numerous rigorous courses and exams, and do an intense weeklong case study presentation boot camp evaluated by senior leaders. While others have to wait up to two years to become an SCO, she was appointed immediately after successfully fulfilling all the requirements.

Congratulations on this impressive accomplishment!

2000

Prisca Bae
pb134@columbia.edu

Two classmates sent news using *CCT*'s Class Notes submission webform. (And you can too! See my note at the end.)

Glenn Yiu is a vitreoretinal surgeon and associate professor at UC Davis. Last summer he was awarded a $3.2 million grant from the NIH to study age-related macular degeneration using rhesus monkeys. After pandemic lockdown, he hopes to travel again with his wife, Melody, and son, Westley (5).

Paul Sheridan is the executive director of Four Winds * Westward Ho, an independent nonprofit summer camp on Orcas Island, Wash. He and his wife, Linda, have two kids, aged 10 and 4, and assumed guardianship of a 14-year-old last summer.

Send me your news for a future column! Please email me or submit online: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

CCT also welcomes photos that feature at least two CC alumni: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo.

Best wishes for the New Year!

2001

Jonathan Gordin
jrg53@columbia.edu

Hi everyone!

My fellow Carman 11 floormate **Samra Haider** was recently promoted to president at the Center for Employment Opportunities in New York.

Daniel Fazio recently joined DLA Piper as a partner in the firm's employment practice.

Congratulations to Samra and Daniel on these huge professional achievements!

Israel Gordan wrote with huge news: "Last August, my wife, Abby, and I celebrated our 15th anniversary. Our kids are Maya (7), Eli (9) and Noa (11).

"I have been the cantor of the Huntington Jewish Center for a bit more than 10 years. Last May, I was honored by the synagogue for my decade of service to the community. The last two years, however, I have been working less than full time, as I have gone back to the Jewish Theological Seminary for rabbinical school. Now that I am in my third year, we sold our car and house and moved the whole family to Jerusalem for the year, where I will study, my wife will work remotely and my kids will attend school. It's been a longtime dream of ours to live as a family here, so if anyone is passing through the area, please let me know!

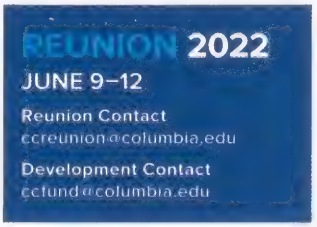
"I attended a pre-reunion event in the fall, and it was lovely to see some old, familiar faces on the screen, but somehow never heard anything after that about our 20th. I guess we'll just have to look forward to our 25th. I hope this year is a better one for everyone!"

Izzy also reports that my pal from *Spectator* and first-year physical education, **Daniel Feldman**, lives with his wife and five children in the same apartment complex as Izzy in Jerusalem!

Finally, I'm excited to share personal news as well. On October 9, my eldest daughter, Julian, became a Bat Mitzvah. Juju did an exceptional job, and Jamie Rubin BC'01 and I are so proud of her, but we were simply blown away by our alum friends who joined us for the event in Los Angeles. All our friends had prominent roles in the service and impressive moves on the dance floor! **Dina Epstein, Annie Lainer Marquit,** Rachel Bloom BC'01, Erin Fredrick BC'01 and Mirka Feinstein BC'01 all showed their spirit. It was incredible to have so many close friends who made such a long trip to be with us! I hope Juju develops lifelong friendships when she goes to college, like Jamie and I did.

Great hearing from all of you!

2002



Sonia Hiradarami
soniahird@gmail.com

Hi, CC'02! Winter is here and before we know it, it will be time for our 20-year reunion! Save the date: Thursday, June 9–Sunday, June 12! Hope to see so many of you! Don't miss the chance to reconnect with Columbia friends, and ideally even make new ones!

Cassius Michael Kim was the director, writer and executive producer for a documentary short, *7 Years and Counting: The Unjust Imprisonment of Marvin Guy.* It was created in partnership with activist Shaun King and his organization, Grassroots Law Project. More information on this injustice, as well as the full 18-minute film, here: freemarvinguy.com.

Lawrence "Larry" A. Haber has been a hospitalist at Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center for 10 years and an associate professor of medicine at UCSF. He has been taking care of hospitalized Covid-19 patients during the pandemic and continues to do so!

David Chubak led the pandemic recovery response at Citibank including leading its branches, mortgage and wealth teams and spearheading the Paycheck Protection Program. He writes, "It has been the challenge of a lifetime but one of the proudest and most impactful of my career."

Mike Mellia filed and directed fashion advertising videos for international brands including Hermès, Loro Piana, Tory Burch, The Gap, Brooks Brothers, Swarovski, *W* magazine, *Vogue* and more. His work has been featured by *Adweek,* SFMOMA, MoMA PS1, *WSJ,* CNN, MSNBC, The Huffington Post, *The Guardian,* Vice, Artinfo and more (mikemellia.com).

Daryl Weber is married to Jennifer Legum Weber '05, and has two boys, Avi (6) and Devin (3). They live on Long Island in Great Neck, N.Y. Daryl wrote a book on the psychology of brands, *Brand Seduction: How Neuroscience Can Help Marketers Build Memorable Brands*, and has been doing brand strategy consulting. But now his focus has shifted to the launch of his own brand — a line of modern sleepwear for men, Bedfellow (bedfellowdreams.com or @bedfellowdreams).

Send your news to the email at the top of the column, or use the Class Notes webform (college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note).

Photos and captions should be submitted directly to *CCT* using the Class Notes photo webform (college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo)!

2003

Michael J. Novielli
mjn29@columbia.edu

It's been a challenging two years for the world, so I sincerely hope you were able to spend some quality time with family and friends during the recent festive period.

On the topic of celebrations, **Carter Reum** and Paris Hilton had

pre-wedding festivities in Las Vegas and Los Angeles and were married on November 11. Those interested in following the preparation leading up to what was certainly an epic wedding can watch her new series, *Paris in Love*.

Raquel Gardner writes, "I'm spending the year living outside of Tel Aviv with my husband and five kids, continuing my work remotely for UCSF and establishing scientific collaborations with scientists at Sheba Medical Center. So far it's been quite an adventure."

Jessica Beard writes, "I want to share an update about the work I am doing in gun violence prevention in Philadelphia. I'm a trauma and critical care surgeon at Temple University Hospital in North Philadelphia. In addition to being on the frontlines of the Covid-19 pandemic, I also respond to our city's gun violence epidemic. Since the onset of Covid, we have cared for double the number of shooting victims at my hospital, which has been incredibly challenging. I am passionate about gun violence prevention and advocating for my patients. I was recently named a Stoneleigh Foundation Fellow and am working on a research and advocacy project to leverage the media as a public health tool for gun violence prevention: bit.ly/3DAeT3H."

Trauma and critical care surgeon Jessica Beard '03 is passionate about gun violence prevention and advocating for her patients.

Jen Baskin shares, "I was very fortunate to meet up with **Leena Gupta** (née Krishnaswamy,) **Jill Freedman** (née Janeczko) and Alison Nogi (née Goodwin) BC'04 in New York City. We had a full day on campus hitting our favorite spots: lunching at Le Monde, drinking frozen margs at The Heights, buying gear for our families at the Bookstore and soaking in the sun on the Steps! After all these years we finally spotted the owl hidden in *Alma Mater*!"

Kambiz Eli Akhavan updates: "I am senior counsel with the international law firm of Norton Rose Fulbright US. I specialize in domestic and international estate planning for high net-worth clients. The American Bar Association also appointed me, effective September 1, as vice-chair of the International Tax Planning Committee."

Fiona Sze-Lorrain shares a film about her poetry, translations and zheng harp music: bit.ly/3DHdisO.

Send me your news for a future column! Please use the email at the top of the column, or the Class Notes webform (college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note).

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2004

Jaydip Mahida
jmahida@gmail.com

The Class of 2004 continues to bring the heat with another great round of updates from across the globe:

Adam Gidwitz's first book for children, *A Tale Dark & Grimm,* was published in 2010. This past fall, it was produced as a 10-episode animated series on Netflix. It was the number 3 most watched kids' show on Netflix in the United States, and one of the top 10 most watched shows on Netflix worldwide. Adam says, "Just as when it came out as a book, some people thought it was too scary for children. And children thought those people were wrong." He continues to write novels, and is working on new television adaptations as well. Adam is married to Lauren Mancia '05, and they have a daughter, Ellie (5).

My fraternity brother **Nohn Ma** writes: "Our company, Numerade, recently raised a $26 million series A round. We're looking for amazing folks to join our team. Our AI tutor is democratizing STEM education. Our goal is to elevate humanity by helping more students succeed in STEM. If interested, please reach out!"

Audrey Slover checks in from India: "Namaste from New Delhi! After arriving at the height of Covid-19 in 2020 on diplomatic assignment for the U.S. Department of State, my husband, John, and I are finally settling in and love living in India. So far our travels have been limited due to our kids not yet being vaccinated, but we are enjoying the culture and history of this amazing place and are doing all we can so that our work keeps contributing to the United States's influencing the world for good overseas. If anyone is coming through town, please let us know. We'd love to see you!"

Sivan Kinberg GSAS'15 is an assistant professor of pediatrics and the director of the Pediatric Intestinal Rehabilitation Center at Columbia University Irving Medical Center (CUIMC). She leads a multidisciplinary team in caring for children with short bowel syndrome and intestinal failure. Sivan also holds a joint appointment as an assistant professor of biomedical informatics at CUIMC and was recently appointed program director of the Clinical Informatics Fellowship Program.

Rachel Neugarten lives in Ithaca, N.Y., and is working on her Ph.D. at Cornell. She happily reports that Ithaca is, as the T-shirts claim, "Gorges," with lots of opportunities to hike and visit waterfalls.

That's all for this issue. Please continue to send in updates, as we want to hear from as many folks as possible. Career and family updates are always fun, but please reach out to share about trips you might take, events you have attended or are looking forward to, or even interesting books or shows you have come across. You can send updates via either the email at the top of the column or Class Notes submission form: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

2005

Sallie Touma
sallie@salliemathtutor.com

Hi, Class of 2005. I hope that you saw an email from me this past fall asking for Class Notes! If not, please send your email to the Alumni Office (college.columbia.edu/cct/update_contact_info) so you get it next time!

It is so nice to feel like our city is opening up with the lights of Broadway back on! A highlight of the fall for me was being able to see a Broadway show. I hope you enjoyed a festive holiday season reuniting with family near and far!

Unfortunately, I did not get any replies for this issue, so I hope to receive some updates from you by email or through the Class Notes webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

Happy New Year!

2006

Andrew Stinger
andrew.stinger@gmail.com

I recently had the privilege of catching up with friend and Lit Hum classmate Colleen Myers '07 during her visit to San Francisco, and while some things hadn't changed much for us (having one beer too many while watching a close game for the Boston Red Sox together), it was a lovely opportunity to reflect on how much has changed — and is changing — for the better in recent months. With that in mind, here are some lovely updates from our CC'06 classmates!

Radha Ram writes: "Raj and I are overjoyed to welcome Meera June Sahoo, born September 13, to the world. We are well, and enjoying being a family of three!"

Libby Peters and her wife, Sarah Stevenson, welcomed their second child, James Edward ("Jed"), last July. Both moms, as well as big sister Findley, are over the moon with the latest addition to the family. They look forward to making a family trip from Philadelphia to Morningside Heights in the near future.

Annie Tracy Samuel, assistant professor in the Department of History at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, has had her book, *The Unfinished History of the Iran-Iraq War: Faith, Firepower, and Iran's Revolutionary Guards,* published. It provides an internal view of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps by examining the history of the war as recorded in a massive volume of Persian language publications produced by the IRGC's top members and units.

Virginia Milner celebrated the debut of Kindle Vella, a new reading experience for serialized stories.

Just Married!

CCT welcomes wedding photos where at least one member of the couple is a College alum. Please submit your high-resolution photo, and caption information, on our photo webform: **college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo**. Congratulations!



SARAH MORRILL



AUDREY PARIS PHOTO







ELAINA MORTALI



JEAN BRIMCOMBE



KYLEE YEE

ALLISON WILLIAMS



1. Celebrating the September 25 marriage of Heather Hwalek '10 and Taylor Washburn LAW'07 at Camp Fernwood Grove in Harrison, Maine, were (left to right) Chuck Roberts '12, Dennis Martin '10, the bride, Ben Arterburn GSAS'12 and the groom.

2. Eyvana Bengochea '16 and Zyad Al Rasheed-Wright GSAS'15 (center) married on July 8 at the Villa et Jardins Ephrussi de Rothschild in Saint-Jean-Cap-Ferrat, France, joined by (left to right) Theresa Babendreier '16; Kristina Ann-Marie Flemming '16; Eylisabeth Bengochea; the couple's son, Tariq; Louwla Wright; Juliana Remark '17; and Lindsey Remark '17.

3. Michael Lew married Elizabeth Chu '12 (seated center, first row) at the Lotte New York Palace Hotel on September 4. Among the celebrants were (far left, standing, bottom to top) Kevin Huang '11, Lisa Lian '12, Wen Liu '12 and Kipp Johnson; (far right, standing, bottom to top) Raina Chandiramani SEAS'12, Sam Bhimani, Zachary Ali '11 and Andrew Nguyen '12; (seated, second row, left to right) Avik Batra and Shalini Thareja '12; (seated, third row, left to right) Ruchika Sangani SEAS'12 and Alana Tung '12; and (seated, fourth row) David Stein.

4. From left, Sarah Hardie '18, Abigail Sharkey '18, Jeramiah Wegner GS'19 and Nick Matos GS'18 celebrating Sharkey and Wegner's wedding in Montego Bay, Jamaica, on July 11.

5. Jessica Goldberg (Dartmouth '03) and Neil Turitz '93 were married by Rabbi Seth Wax '03 on October 10 in New Ashford, Mass.

6. Jackson Allen Giuricich '14 and Maria Giménez Cavallo '14, who met at the Columbia University French Cultural Society, were married on October 23 in Montmartre, Paris.

7. Katie Chung '13 and Jason Sun '12 wed on July 2 at The Mansion at Natirar in Far Hills, N.J.

8. Eric Hirsch '09 married Lauren Hock in Chicago on May 30. Joining were (left to right) Billy Goldstein '09, Kris Alspach '09, Lauren Rennée '09, Amy Z. Cohen BC'76, Harriet Cohen BC'52, the groom, the bride, Jacob Hirsch '18 and Gabriel Stine GSAS'24.

9. Catherine Woo '08, DM'15 and Sam Polan DM'14 were married on October 2 at Casa La Siesta in Cadiz, Spain. Celebrating were (left to right) Kimberly Shao, Zach Buchwald, Amy Dinh, Don Damico, Ciji Rich Jeffies '08, the groom, the bride, James Middleton III, Rachael Gargano '08, Michael Polan, Tener Huang DM'13, PH'13 and Nick Singhal.



RADKA HORVATH

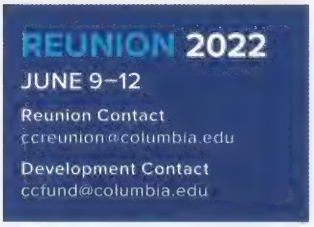
As principal product manager for Kindle Direct Publishing, Virginia led what is one of Amazon's biggest launches in the books category from ideation to launch.

And finally, **Andrew Liebowitz** shares that he took up piano during the pandemic. Additionally, after watching *The Chair* on Netflix, he reached out to Professor Edward Mendelson to let him know how his "Modern British Literature" class was valuable and important to him in 2004, and continues to influence how he reads fiction to this day.

Send me your news, too! Use the email at the top of the column or the Class Notes webform (college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note).

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2007



David D. Chait
david.donner.chait@gmail.com

I hope everyone is doing well, and thanks so much to everyone who shared updates.

Helam Gebremariam and **Subash Iyer** write: "On August 6, we welcomed a daughter, Samai Meena Iyer-Gebremariam. Big brother Anand is absolutely overjoyed and settling well into his new role!"

Eric Bondarsky shares, "In autumn I co-coached my son Isaac's U8 soccer team with David Baruch '13. With an assist from Jacob Baruch, Isaac had a goal in the season opener to cap a 5–0 victory. Go green gorillas!

John Shekitka TC'20 writes, "After only seven and a half years, I earned a Ph.D. in social studies education from Teachers College. In addition, I was appointed to be assistant professor at Manhattanville College in Westchester County, where I have been an instructor since 2018. (Fun fact: Manhattanville College was located in Manhattan's Manhattanville until the 1950s and is often, but shouldn't be, confused with Manhattan College in the Bronx.)"

Simeon Siegel shares, "We had a girl, Moriah Pearl, giving her brothers the sister they've been asking for."

It is so great to hear about all the wonderful things you are all doing. Please continue sharing updates! Email me at the address at the top of the column, or use the Class Notes submission form, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

2008

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

Lauren Agubuzu (née Angius) and **Ogo Agubuzu** welcomed their first child, Charlotte Olivia, into the world on August 30, 2021. By way of background, Lauren and Ogo were married in Walnut Creek, Calif., on August 20, 2016. Columbians in attendance were Ben Nwachukwu '08, Eve Torres '08 and Marissa Fuentes (née Garcia) '08. Lauren is a senior engineer at Google. Ogo is a physician at Palo Alto Medical Foundation."

Rachel Claire Weidenbaum and her husband, Ian Lowe, welcomed their baby, Sadie Ruth Lowe, home in September after a month in the amazing NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia University Medical Center NICU. They are thrilled she has made a full recovery!

Chenni Xu writes: "I was married on October 3 in Wainscott, N.Y., to Chad Bennett Cohen. We were wed in an interfaith ceremony in a micro wedding (family members only) by Rabbi Daniel N. Geffen of Temple Adas Israel in Sag Harbor, which was followed by a mini-moon in Paris. We look forward to properly celebrating with friends in the spring with our friends gathering. I work in fintech communications and welcome alumni reachout."

Carmen Jo "CJ" Rejda-Ponce keeps busy in Houston with her husband, two Yorkie furbabies and legal career. CJ works a dual docket of employment litigation and civil rights defense for governmental entities and law enforcement agencies.

Send *CCT* your news for a future column! Please use the email at the top of the column, or the Class Notes



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webform (college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note).

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Best wishes for the New Year.

2009

Shira Burton
shira.burton@gmail.com

Hello, classmates! **Shira Burton** here. After college, I attended law school at NYU. Since 2014, I've been an assistant public defender in my hometown of Minneapolis. My husband, Jonas, and I currently spend most of our time trying to keep up with our son, Ira, born in June 2020. In the meager free time that remains, I have been knitting, and studying Swedish. I love keeping up with my Columbia friends, so I thought I'd give the ol' *CCT* staff a break and volunteer to be your class correspondent. Members of the Class of 2009 are doing amazing things out there, so I hope to be able to share many exciting things with you in the future. I've been lucky to hear from several of you already.

Asher Grodman '10 is currently starring in the new CBS comedy Ghosts, *recently rated the number 1 most-watched new comedy this season.*

Joanna Smolenski earned a Ph.D. in philosophy from the CUNY Graduate Center last year and moved to Los Angeles to begin a fellowship in clinical ethics at UCLA Health.

Another classmate made a big move in the opposite direction: After a year of sunshine in San Diego, **Josh Mathew** is clerking for a judge in Brooklyn and living in Clinton Hill. He looks forward to catching up!

Sasha de Vogel GSAS'13 is also back in Brooklyn after earning a Ph.D. in political science from the University of Michigan. Sasha's research is about the politics of protest in Russia and other authoritarian regimes. She is a post-doctoral fellow at the Jordan Center for the Advanced Study of Russia at NYU.

Benny Shaffer moved back to his hometown of Pittsburgh after many years living between Boston and Shanghai. He is planning to open a community art space and residency program this year. In recent months he's enjoyed hosting CC'09 friends for large meals and Rust Belt nostalgia tours.

Meanwhile, after spending the last four years in the forests of southern Germany, **Anna Vlasits** (née Corke) recently moved back to the United States. She is living, working and riding her German cargo bike in the Chicago area with her husband, Justin Vlasits '11, her two sons and her mother.

tiffany dockery recently started as a director of product at Etsy. She's building a team focused on building visual discovery experiences from the ground up. She also recently purchased a home in the historic Bedford-Stuyvesant neighborhood of Brooklyn. After having survived the *Hunger Games*-like experience of buying a home in NYC, tiffany says she is excited to have a space to gather and welcome blood and chosen family.

Ashraya Gupta checks in from the wilds of Maine, where she is studying at the Salt Institute for Documentary Studies following 10 years as a high school science teacher in NYC public schools. She reports that quitting your job after a decade is weird but OK, and she looks forward to finally getting a taste of the gig economy. By the way, if you're missing campus fave the Kitchen Cabinet, you can listen to Ashraya's new project Groupwork's album at groupworkmusic.bandcamp.com.

Finally, **Eric Hirsch** writes, "I'm in my fifth year as an assistant professor of environmental studies in the Department of Earth and Environment at Franklin & Marshall College, where I teach and do research on issues of climate change, sustainability issues, environmental justice and, most recently, the environmental politics of adaptation and migration. I have a book coming out in March, *Acts of Growth: Development and the Politics of Abundance in Peru* (bit.ly/3HE14Uf). The book, which looks at extraction, climate change and development in Peru, has some of its beginnings in my Columbia thesis and study abroad experiences."

Eric recently married Lauren Hock in Chicago (see "Just Married!").

We want to hear about what you are up to, as well! Send me your news using email at the top of the column, or the Class Notes webform (college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note).

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2010

Billy Organek
william.a.organek@gmail.com

Hi Class of 2010! I'm excited to share some updates from classmates.

Alana Sivin is running for New York State Senate in District 26, which includes lower Manhattan and the Brooklyn waterfront. She elaborates: "As a former public defender, I would be the only public defender in the New York State Senate and am running to bring real criminal legal reform to Albany. I've been endorsed by leaders such as Zephyr Teachout, Janos Marton, Eliza Orlins and Marti Allen-Cummings. Check out sivin4statesenate.com."

Asher Grodman relayed that he is living his "dream come true, for sure," as he is currently starring as Trevor in the new CBS comedy *Ghosts,* recently rated the number 1 most-watched new comedy this season, according to *Variety.* The show's first season is filming in Montreal. Check out the trailer and the show: cbs.com/shows/ghosts.

Good luck to Alana and Asher!

The past 18 months have shown me how precious it is when we can choose how to live, who to love and what to do, knowing that this freedom can be unexpectedly fleeting. I hope each of you takes time to enjoy special moments and can reconnect with those you cherish (including your CC'10 classmates).

It is so great to hear about all the wonderful things you are all doing. Please continue sharing these updates with the rest of the class! Email me at the address at the top of the column, or use the Class Notes submission form, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

2011

Nuriel Moghavem and Sean Udell
nurielm@gmail.com
sean.udell@gmail.com

Hope you had happy holidays, Twenty Eleven! We hope that the season was merry, bright and Covid-19–free. Your bicoastal class correspondents continue to be well. **Nuriel Moghavem** remains in his hometown of Los Angeles, where he is training as a fellow in multiple sclerosis and neuroimmunology, and recently married Stephanie Muscat. **Sean Udell** remains in his father's hometown of Philadelphia, where is now more than halfway through his psychiatry residency. Sean does have some additional news this time: He's (finally) married! After a two-year (Covid) engagement, Sean married Jonathan Jenkins in Sean's hometown of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., on New Year's Eve at the historic Bonnet House Museum and Gardens. Following the wedding weekend, the newlyweds escaped to Eleuthera Island for their hideaway honeymoon.

Other classmates recently wed as well. **Ana Bobadilla Bermudez** married Juan Bermudez in the Dominican Republic a week before the country went into a Covid state of emergency and curfew. The couple moved to Santiago, proceeded to have a pandemic baby and have started jobs in the local banking system. The curfew and state of emergency lasted more than 450 days, but thankfully ended at the time of submitting these Class Notes (and they hope it remains in the past by the time these notes are published). Ana says she is looking forward to an in-person reunion with many classmates!

Forrest Anderson PS'17 and **Katherine Kolombatovich** also tied the knot, on August 28 at Troutbeck in Amenia, N.Y. Family and friends, including a slew of rowdy Columbia alums, joined for

the celebration, which culminated in a truly epic dance party reminiscent of the good ol' EC days. During the next year and a half, Forrest and Katie will split their time between New York and San Francisco, where Forrest will complete his fellowship year in orthopedic surgery and sports medicine at Stanford and Katie will continue her work as a producer at Apple.

Another newlywed, **Sejal Patel,** was married to Deepan Patel in September. In addition to their marriage, Sejal enjoyed many other transitions: (finally) graduating from a glaucoma fellowship at Columbia Ophthalmology last July and starting his first "real" job in private practice at Metro Eye Care in Paramus, N.J. While it was bittersweet to leave NYC, Sejal and Deepan say they are happily settling into their married life in the suburbs!

Jessica L. Johnson breaks this weddings-and-babies-heavy Class Notes column with her adventurous update: She is back at it in Istanbul, subconsciously chasing James Baldwin's ghost all over the world! Taking it a step further, she is scheming to move to Paris with David J. Amado '10 early this year, planning a 15-year friendship anniversary phenomenon, if you will. In other dream-realizing news, Jessica has recently begun sending her zine, *seçenekler | geri,* out into the world. Drop a line at @j.l.mixwelle on IG if you'd like to witness a Black woman processing her love life and coming to life in another hemisphere. And learn a little Turkish. And enjoy some mixed media!

Sam Laskey sent this update just in time to make it into this issue: "As part of the lead creative team at Bootleg Universe, Sam Laskey is working on the kind of insane, juvenile, ultra-violent projects his Columbia professors told him not to pursue. Sam recently attended the Canneseries TV festival in the absurdly beautiful city of Cannes for the premiere of *The Guardians of Justice,* a mixed-media superhero miniseries he wrote and produced. You can watch it next year on Netflix. (Please, just press play over and over and over again. Sam doesn't care if you like it, but he needs big viewership numbers in order to get season two and buy a house.) Additionally, he is writing and producing an adaptation of *Far Cry 3: Blood Dragon* titled *Captain Laserhawk,* also for Netflix, and several other major video game adaptations he can't talk about yet."

Rebecca Kwee '12 is a nominee for the 2021 Pushcart Prize for short fiction; she started publishing her writing amidst the pandemic.

Adding another alumni-in-law to our ranks, **Princess Francois** married Andy Estevez at Transfiguration Roman Catholic Church in Williamsburg on September 5. Like a true royal, her matrimony was grandly featured in *The New York Times* (nyti.ms/3qw1Jkq)! The couple met in 2017 on Coffee Meets Bagel, and it's been lox of love ever since.

Where there are weddings, there are babies, we suppose. **Shira Schindel** and Ron Gejman '10 welcomed their first child into the world on July 14! Adi Elena Gejman was born at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston via cesarean section, and she is busy smiling at her loving parents at all ungodly hours of the night (and day). **Zila Reyes Acosta-Grimes** LAW'15 and **Brian Grimes** recently welcomed their second son into the world! Tomas was born on October 7 at NewYork Presbyterian-Columbia University Medical Center, clocking in at 6 pounds, 11 ounces, with a length of 19 3/4 inches. Zila adds that Tomasito is — unsurprisingly — a little clone of Brian, who has very dominant genes, apparently.

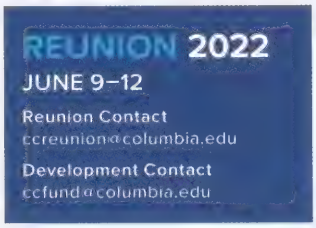
Finally, **Ivette Sanchez** offered to share a more longitudinal life update, which we are always thrilled to receive.

For those of you who have never sent one in or have been a stranger for some time, we invite your longitudinal updates as well!

Ivette graduated from NYU Law in 2017 and lives on Long Island. She is a rising fifth-year associate in the health care group of Ropes & Gray, where she advises a wide range of healthcare clients, including providers, payers and investors. She says she is grateful for her time at Columbia, particularly the history department, the diversity and her friends.

We, too, are grateful for this class, and for everyone's Class Notes contributions. Keep them coming!

2012



Sarah Chai
sarahbchai@gmail.com

Class of 2012, thanks for sharing your updates.

Natasha Avanessians SIPA'17 is the communications director for the Partnership for New York City. She previously was chief of staff at the Long Island Rail Road and on the Bloomberg 2020 presidential campaign. She graduated from SIPA with a focus in urban policy. Natasha and her husband live in New York City and look forward to connecting ahead of the 10-year reunion!

After four years in Hong Kong, **Paul Hsiao** has moved back to the United States. He is in New York and is an economist for Boston Consulting Group. You can also find him on the squash courts. As of the time of this submission, Paul had recently won his first tournament.

Exciting news from **Rebecca Kwee:** "I'm one of the nominees for the 2021 Pushcart Prize for short fiction. The reason I'm sharing is I started publishing my writing amidst the pandemic, and am navigating becoming a 'writer' mid-career (I am in the education and social impact world). I started the Columbia University Club of Singapore's first writing group, and would love to connect with alumni who are exploring this path, as well as to learn from their experience: rebeccakwee@gmail.com."

Ian Scheffler wrote from New York: "I recently met up with Jared Rosenfeld '13 and Lidia Jean Kott BC'13 to explore the New York Botanical Garden and nosh on the finest pastas of Arthur Avenue. We ran into **Georges Compagnon** and Adrienne Peñaloza BC'12, who had the same itinerary, just offset by an hour.

"For the past four years, I've been teaching English (and now computers) at a small public arts school in the Bronx. Two of my former students recently started *Journals of Color,* the borough's first and only (so far as we know) independent literary magazine for teens of color.

"If you're still in the Big Apple and we haven't seen each other in 10 years, feel free to reach out! Always happy to go for a nostalgic jog in Riverside Park or grab a pastry at the Hungarian."





PHOTO (RIGHT): LEE GLICKLICH

At left: Ravi Bhalla '13 and Allison Heimann '13 at their CC graduation, and at right: attending the wedding of Andrew Glicklich '14 and Gabrielle Fromer BC'14 on June 26, 2020. Bhalla and Heimann are now engaged!



At left: Roniquee Marksman '14 and Damaris Giha '14 in Brooklyn; middle: Hannah Ellison '14 and Giha at La Sagrada Familia, Barcelona; and at right: Marksman and Ellison in Milwaukee.

Shalini Thareja sent a note from Florida: "Our 1402 EC suite recently finished celebrating the weddings of **Elizabeth Chu** to Michael Lew and **Raina Chandiramani SEAS'12** to Sam Bhimani. We had our first reunion in Manhattan and then traveled to Clearwater, Fla., for the second wedding two weeks later. It was a blast to get our whole crew together after so long. Congratulations to the newlyweds!"

See the nearby photo from Elizabeth and Michael's wedding!

It's always great to learn what classmates are up to and to hear of classmates meeting up with one another. Wishing everyone a peaceful winter season, and hope to hear from more folks soon.

2013

Tala Akhavan
talaakhavan@gmail.com

The Class of 2013 has been making the most of the pandemic, taking advantage of remote work to spend time with family and pursue new careers. During the last few months, my husband, Andrew Wood '14, and I have been raising our now-toddler, Mila, and Cocker Spaniel, Apollo, in Santa Monica. Last summer, I was brought in as COO of Pietra, a tech company focused on democratizing and digitizing e-commerce and supply chain for the creator economy.

In early 2021, **Michael Laracuente** and his brother, Tyler, were selected as one of 30 teams from 3,000-plus applicants to participate in a startup competition. After three months, six rounds of cuts and a final pitch in front of 20 investors, they won and started their company, ESporter, which curates "rec league" experiences for gamers looking to improve, find a community and compete for cash prizes. When participants join one of ESporter's "Splits" they get access to four weeks of coaching from professionals, a community to learn from and practice with, and a ticket to a cash prize tournament. The brothers are starting with just one game to prove the concept but have plans to expand into several other games soon. In Michael's words, "It's kind of a rec league, kind of a MasterClass, kind of a tournament but all fun, unique and engaging."

If you want to check in with Michael, don't hesitate to reach out: team@esporter.win!

Dan Margulies completed his rabbinical ordination in 2017, and after a few years in the Bronx as a synagogue rabbi, he and his wife, Ilana (NYU '13), have relocated to Washington, D.C., for Ilana's surgical residency at Georgetown. Dan teaches Judaic subjects (Hebrew Bible and Talmud) at one of the local Jewish high schools. They recently welcomed their second daughter and love living near their extended families.

Ben Basche and his wife, Talya, had their second boy, Noah, in May 2021. He joins their first son, Samuel (3), and Ben's stepsons, Jonah (8) and twins Rafael and Gabrie (6). They live in a suburb of Johannesburg, where Ben has been PM on AI/recommendations engines for three years at MultiChoice Group, Africa's main pay-TV/streaming video on-demand company. During the last few months, Ben decided to pivot his career to cryptocurrencies. The co-founder of Rainbow.me — an Ethereum wallet based in NYC — reached out to him on Twitter about working with them. Coincidentally, two days later, a friend sent him his first NFT (of a fat Penguin). At that point, Ben was hooked. He began in a consulting capacity and joined full-time as the 12th employee at Rainbow, working on product, strategy and business development.

Katherine Howitt is pursuing a Ph.D. in linguistics at the University of Maryland and recently got engaged to Evan Casper-Futterman. In her program, Katherine is a Flagship Fellow and is studying child language acquisition. Last July, the couple completed a through hike of the John Muir Trail, which was more than 210 miles, and summited Mount Whitney.

Woo Chang Chung is a quantum physicist at ColdQuanta, which works to build the world's first commercial quantum computer based on trapped neutral atoms.

Caroline Neff (née Lisankie) and her husband, Jack, welcomed their first child, John, in March 2021.

Allison Heimann LAW'16 and **Ravi Bhalla** are engaged! Allison and Ravi met in a philosophy class and became close friends at Columbia, but did not start dating until five years after graduation. Now, they live in Tribeca and are getting married next year. Allison is an attorney in the Tax-Exempt Organizations Group at Morgan Lewis. Ravi, also an attorney, is a commercial litigator at Susman Godfrey.

See the nearby photo!

Arielle Kogut recently joined the venture capital industry as a partner at Tribe Capital, where she is focused on fundraising and deal sourcing. She moved to Florida last year and splits her time between New York and Miami.

Send me your news! Use the email at the top of the column or the Class Notes webform (college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note).

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2014

Rebecca Fattell
rsf2121@columbia.edu

Damaris Giha, Hannah Ellison and **Roniquee Marksman** have been able to see each other, but all three have yet to be together in the same place at the same time! (see the nearby collage). Damaris recently quit her corporate job to pursue full-time musicianship. Hannah teaches bilingual kindergarten classes in Milwaukee. Roniquee recently graduated from a social work program in Chicago and is back in Brooklyn pursuing school-based positions. They hope others are doing well!

After meeting during NSOP in 2010, **Namrata Gumaste** and **Ram Narayan SEAS'14** married last summer, surrounded by their Columbia friends.

Congratulations to **Shaun Abreu,** the newest representative for District 7 on New York City's City Council! Shaun will be sworn in in January with a stated focus on food and housing insecurity, educational opportunity, better infrastructure and crime.

Congratulations from your CC'14 classmates!

As always, please feel to reach out to me directly with your updates!

2015

Kareem Carryl
kareem.carryl@columbia.edu

Hello, Class of 2015! No news to share this time, but don't be shy about sending me some! Your classmates want to hear about all of the cool things you are up to! Use the email above or the Class Notes webform (college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note).

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2016

Lily Liu-Krason
lliukrason@gmail.com

Hey 2016. Every time I write this note to you, I can't help but think how time has flown. I recently caught up with **Sonya Li, Angel Wang** and **Julie Anne Hoffman** in Black Canyon in Utah. See the nearby photo!

Angel and Julie recently sent updates but here's one from Sonya: "Hi Columbia. It's been quite an adventure since graduating! After working for four years in NYC/Boston at a life sciences consultancy, I moved to Oakland, Calif., to join a healthcare data startup. In September, I began a fellowship at

an early-stage venture fund to learn about seed investing in healthcare. I left NYC in April 2021 and drove across the country, visiting 11 National Parks along the way. Remote work has been a blessing, as I've since hiked remarkable trails in Utah, Texas, Colorado and California. I've marveled at arches carved impossibly into pre-historic sandstone, watched golden aspen trees glow against the backdrop of snow-capped mountains. In a world of uncertainty and strife, nature has kept me grounded. I feel lucky to have shared some of these adventures with **Lily Liu-Krason** and **Angel Wang.** So while my career and location have changed, my college friendships remain a constant!"

From **Charles Sanky:** "Hey 2016! Hope y'all are staying positive and testing negative these days. I've had the privilege of working on health system design and health equity across New York City hospitals, especially the past couple of years with the Covid-19 pandemic. I'm an ER doc at Mount Sinai Hospital, Beth Israel Hospital and Elmhurst Hospital. I've found a passion for creative solutions to population health, ensuring that we take care of everyone, especially those who typically slip through the cracks due to systemic injustice and oppression. In my spare time, I still do a lot of running, swimming and music. Miss y'all and hope to see you around!"

See the below photo, taken at Homecoming on October 16!

From **Eyvana Bengochea** LAW'19: "Columbia is where I met my best friends, where I met my husband, Zyad Al Rasheed-Wright GSAS'15, and where I watched my son spend the first two years of his life, so when it came time to plan my wedding I knew I wanted to incorporate my gratitude and love for Columbia as much as possible! I made Columbia Blue the 'official' accent color for the wedding, featuring it in the bridesmaids' dresses, floral arrangements including my bridal bouquet, stationery and even my son's 'page boy' outfit. I incorporated the Columbia crown in our wedding logo and included it on the invitations and throughout the day. By far my favorite Columbia elements, though, were a gold relief of Butler Library on our cake (we included tiny reliefs of the places most significant to us, and Butler Library was definitely one of those key places!) and the drawing of Low Library on our table cards, with the top table named '116th Street, Columbia University.' Given that most of my friends who attended were from the College, it was even more special and fitting to get to celebrate together with these elements that reminded us of Columbia, even thousands of miles away in France!"

See "Just Married!"

That's all for now ... Have you been having adventures with classmates? Please let me know!



Left to right, Richin Kabra '16, Charles Sanky '16, Andrew Liu '17 and Saaket Pradhan '16 met up at Homecoming on October 16.



GREG MOSS

From left, Angel Wang '16, Julie Anne Hoffman '16, Lily Liu-Krason '16 and Sonya Li '16 hiked the Black Canyon in Moab, Utah, on October 9.

2017

REUNION 2022
JUNE 9–12
Reunion Contact
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Development Contact
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Carl Yin
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Karisma Price's debut collection of poetry, *I'm Always so Serious,* has recently been acquired and will be published in 2023.

Alfred E. Tsai joined the American Chamber of Commerce in Taiwan and has been director of government and public affairs since October. He previously served as executive officer in the Department of International Affairs of Taiwan's Kuomintang (Chinese Nationalist Party). Alfred earned a J.D. from the University of Wisconsin in May 2021 and is pursuing an M.B.A. at The Johns Hopkins Carey Business School by way of online classes.

Bianca Guerrero continues to lead a coalition that won a $2.1 billion excluded workers fund for New Yorkers who were ineligible for unemployment and federal Covid-19 benefits. The state program opened for applications on August 1, and due to overwhelming demand closed on October 8. The coalition is now gearing up to fight for an additional $3 billion for the program, plus permanent solutions to ensure these workers are never excluded again.

Outside of work, Bianca has been learning to sew, taking screen printing classes, going to concerts and reconnecting with friends.

Elliot Xu, with Grant Mullins '16, is a part of the founding team for a hedge fund in San Francisco.

As always, please feel free to share Class Notes with me either via email or the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. We all love hearing about the exciting stories, updates and accomplishments in your lives!

2018

Alexander Birkel and Maleeha Chida
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mnc2122@columbia.edu

Noah Zgrablich is a second-year law student at USC Gould and will work for Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton. He will be in the firm's New York City location this summer, in the corporate department working on mergers and acquisitions, private equity, capital markets and real estate.

Briley Lewis will soon finish her thesis proposal and advance to Ph.D. candidacy, one step closer to a Ph.D. in astronomy! Briley recently won the American Physical Society's History of Physics essay contest, writing about the life of astronomer Carolyn Shoemaker, who discovered the Shoemaker-Levy 9 comet that crashed into Jupiter in the 1990s.

Callahan Mayer writes, "Upon leaving the city, I bought an old farmhouse, off a dirt road, outside a small rural town, in one of the poorest counties in Wisconsin. I absolutely love it here. I've even met two alumni and many NYC transplants! I worked in Child Protective Services and now work in a hospital, supporting and facilitating groups for psychiatric patients. I have a

newfound admiration for truck drivers, farmers, parents and neighbors. I am more understanding of people with conservative, traditional and religious values. I have never felt worldlier than I do now — in this landlocked little town."

Bindu Bansinath is a writing fellow at The Cut, a lifestyle and culture website for women, as of November 15.

Send in news about your adventures! Use the email at the top of the column or the Class Notes webform (college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note).

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2019

Tj Aspen Givens and Emily Gruber
tag2149@columbia.edu
emilyannegruber@gmail.com

Hi Class of 2019! We hope that you enjoy the following updates from our class and had a fantastic fall, full of pumpkin patches, apple-picking and spending well-deserved time with loved ones. Send your updates along to us for a future issue!

Houston Brown took a short break from academia to pursue traveling. He has since started law school at Cornell. The knowledge that he gained at Columbia has been invaluable to law school, he says. It has been great for him to get out of the city and attend an institution in a college town. Nonetheless, he is looking forward to returning to the city, and possibly Columbia.

Tj Aspen Givens recently received admittance to and began a six-month digital marketing intensive course at the Business School to further her career and executive education in marketing, communications and digital at M&T Bank.

Krys Molina was recognized as an honoree of the *Hispanic Executive* magazine 30 Under 30 class. This honor concretized her success at Pfizer during the company's vaccine creation; she was chosen to help build the engine that powered the dashboards the executive leadership team used to make decisions throughout the pandemic. Krys also co-led Pfizer's Global 2021 Latino Summit in October, where she interviewed Pfizer's CEO, Albert Bourla, on the topic of "Diversity as Business Imperative."

Brent Morden recently celebrated the run of his new rock musical, *Infernal,* which played four live shows at NYC's Flea Theater in October. Brent says he is grateful to his many Columbia friends who came out to support him. He continued to grow his work as a teacher, music director and singer this past fall. In September, Brent began directing chorus classes at Hunter College Elementary School through Every Voice Choirs, where he is the program manager, and was gearing up his voice for Christmas caroling season. Follow Brent at @extramordenary for more.



Showing their Lions spirit at Homecoming on October 16 were Yanlin Wu '18 (left) and Yanette Rosario '18.



Left to right, Connor Moore '19, Eleanor Pressman '19 and Nick Rio '19 at their annual Fourth of July backpacking trip in Yosemite National Park.

Eleanor Pressman, Connor Moore and **Nick Rio** "all moved to California after graduating, and we enjoy getting to see each other lots, especially last summer when we completed several backpacking trips in the Sierras! See the nearby photo of us on top of Yosemite Falls last Fourth of July!"

Michael Wheatley and **Jack Treval** were married on July 31 in Washington, D.C. Ariana Agrios '18 officiated. Michael and Jack are now happily living in Seattle with their two cats.

2020

Stephen Cone and Kyra Ann Dawkins
jsc2247@columbia.edu
kad2196@columbia.edu

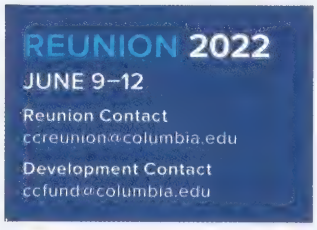
Jane Poss finished an M.Sc. at the University of Oxford last September and has moved back to the United States.

Janiya Clemmons is playing professional basketball in Dijon, France, and says she loves the small town and is definitely taking advantage of its amazing pastries.

Alessandra Allen is at the Iowa Writers' Workshop studying poetry.

Thank you to those who submitted notes, and we look forward to hearing from more of you in the spring! We truly love hearing from you. Please send your Class Notes to either **Kyra Dawkins** and/or **Stephen Cone** (emails above) or submit them through the Class Notes submission form: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

2021



Mario A. Garcia Jr.
mag2329@columbia.edu

Hey Class of 2021! My name is **Mario Garcia,** and I'm your class correspondent! If there's anything our virtual graduation year showed us, it's that connecting with each other despite massive location differences is a key part of what makes our Columbia community so special. Feel free to use this column to share with our fellow Lions what you're up to! What are you doing this year? Have you finally answered the dreaded "What comes after graduation?" question? What's new in your life — weddings, career moves, recently moved? I'd love to hear from all of y'all, either by email or through the Class Notes webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

And if you see an old friend or a potential new connection through Class Notes, reach out! Continue that conversation and keep the Columbia community thriving. Looking forward to seeing you all very soon!

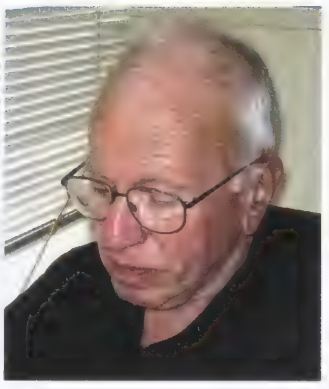
obituaries

1942

Immanuel Lichtenstein, engineer, Oneonta, N.Y., on June 12, 2021. Following his B.A. in civil and mechanical engineering, Lichtenstein earned a B.S. in industrial engineering from SEAS in 1943. A veteran of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, he helped to build airfields in the Arctic and to rebuild airfields in Germany after WWII. Following his military service, Lichtenstein earned an M.S. in industrial engineering from Stevens Tech in 1954. His career and interests were far ranging, including corporate work for Avco and Phelps Dodge Corp. in California, gold and silver mining in Nevada and Idaho as the founder and president of Agricola Metals, tree planting in Chad, and inventing and patenting Laminite, a treatment for corrugated cardboard that made it resistant to fire and vermin. He continued to head Agricola Metals until his death. Lichtenstein loved to ski, hike and sail and continued to do so into his 90s, and enjoyed memorizing and reciting the works of A.E. Housman, George Bernard Shaw, John Keats and William Shakespeare. He sat for many years on SEAS's Board of Visitors and was presented a Columbia Alumni Medal in 1997. Lichtenstein is survived by his wife of 67 years, Nancy Rabi Lichtenstein LAW'52; daughters, Alice Bercovitz (James) and Elizabeth Torak (Thomas); two grandchildren; and brother, Michael '48 (Peggy).

1947

Jerome K. Percus, professor, New York City, on March 7, 2021. After entering with the Class of 1947 and graduating from SEAS in 1947 with a B.S. in electrical engineering, Percus earned an M.A. in mathematics in 1948 and a Ph.D. in physics in 1954, both from GSAS. An outstanding



Jerome K. Percus '47

teacher and scientist, Percus was in his 63rd year as a professor of mathematics and physics at NYU when he died. His internationally recognized contributions ranged from pioneering research in statistical mechanics and combinatorics to his later work in mathematical biology and genome analysis. He was an inspirational advisor to more than 70 Ph.D. candidates and a mentor to innumerable others, many of whom became lifelong friends. Percus was a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, American Mathematical Society and American Physical Society, and was presented the Pregel Award in Chemical Physics from the New York Academy of Sciences, and the Pattern Recognition Society Medal, and the Hildebrand Award in Physical Chemistry from the American Chemical Society. His most frequent collaborator in his more than 300 publications was his wife, mathematical statistician Ora E. Percus GSAS'65, who predeceased him. Percus is survived by his sons, Orin and Allon; and three granddaughters.

1950

Joseph L. "Bud" Kassel II, retailer and ski host, Shelburne, Vt., on December 25, 2019. Born and raised in Middletown, N.Y., Kassel earned an M.B.A. from Harvard in 1952 and returned to his hometown, where he had a creative and productive career in retailing. He and Ruth, his wife of 67 years, were community leaders in various public and private capacities for decades. They retired to Vermont in the late 1990s to be closer to two of their three sons and a number of cherished grandchildren, as well as the mountains he loved. Kassel was a volunteer host at Stowe Mountain Resort until two years before his death. His wife died five months after he did. Kassel is survived by his sons, David (Magda), John (Julie) and Peter (Carol); nine grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

1953

Stephen G. Reich, insurance agent, Winter Springs, Fla., on June 25, 2021. Born on January 25, 1931, in Mount Vernon, N.Y., Reich played varsity baseball and football for the Lions, served in the Marine Corps as a 1st lieutenant and returned to Columbia to earn an M.B.A. in 1958. He moved to Orlando in 1959 and worked for Home Life Insurance for more than 35 years. Reich also was an administrator for the Central Florida Baseball League, a summer league for college players, and coached his sons in the sport. He was an avid tennis player, golfer and equestrian; enjoyed spending time at his ranch in Springdale, Mont.; and was a longtime member of the Interlachen Country Club in Winter Park, Fla. Reich is survived by his wife of 63 years, Shyla; sons, Robert and John (Shayna); and five grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to the Landscape Beautification Fund at the Congregation of Reform Judaism in Orlando (crjorlando.org).

1955

Thomas M. "Miller" Evans, physician, Cincinnati, on July 13, 2021. Evans was a student leader and member of Sigma Chi, earned an M.D. at Cincinnati and served in the Navy as first lieutenant medical corps and aboard the *U.S.S. Thomas Jefferson.* Following his internship and residency in ob/gyn, he practiced privately in Cincinnati until his retirement. Evans is remembered for his sense of humor; generous spirit; love of sports, gardening and family; and for the thousands of babies he helped bring into the world. He was predeceased by his wife of 64 years, Geraldine "Jere" Schadt; and is survived by his sons, Scott (Trudi) and Bradley (Tess); daughter, Megan Daniels (James); eight grandchildren; brother, William (Virginia); and sisters, Marilyn Evans Baer and Elisabeth Evans Niswonger.

Norman Goldstein, dermatologist, New York City, on January 5, 2021. Born in Brooklyn, Goldstein earned an M.D. from SUNY Downstate in 1959. He was chief of dermatology in the Army and afterward in the Honolulu Medical Group, conducting clinical investigations on topical sunscreen agents. In 1972, the American Academy of Dermatology recognized his research and his development of the first sunscreen for skin cancer prevention with its Original Research and Prevention of Skin Cancers Award. Goldstein developed and published the first photographic techniques for early detection of skin cancers and was the first to use laser treatment for Kaposi's sarcoma lesions. He published more than 200 medical articles, book chapters and editorial columns and wrote *The Skin You Live In* (1978), a self-help text. Goldstein established the first UV meter, which began UV index reporting on television weather reports. In 2005, he became the first dermatologist to receive a Laureate award from the American College of Physicians, and in 2009, the American Medical Association commended him for 50 years of practice. Goldstein was a senior faculty member at the Mount Sinai Hospital and School of Medicine in NYC in addition to running his private practice.

1956

Frederic H. Brooks, businessman and entrepreneur, Greenwich, Conn., on May 28, 2021. Born on November 26, 1934, in NYC, Brooks graduated from Horace Mann and briefly attended the Law School before deciding to make his way in business. While at Columbia, his sister, Barbara, introduced him to Jane Peyser BC'58, who became his wife of 65 years. After working at Merrill Lynch, Brooks created several entrepreneurial

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enterprises, including SportsVision, which owned the closed-circuit television rights to championship boxing matches and promoted famous fights such as Muhammad Ali's heavyweight championship bouts against Sonny Liston; MacGregor Products, one of the top sporting goods manufacturers in the United States; and Riddell, the country's leading football helmet manufacturer. Through his work, he pursued his passion for travel and was recruited to join an initiative under Presidents Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush, which aimed to increase business investment throughout Central America and the Caribbean. Brooks and his wife visited more than 100 countries together and built a collection of Tang Dynasty art, much of which was donated to the Bruce Museum in Greenwich, Conn. In addition to his wife, Brooks is survived by his sons, Rick and Mark; daughter, Kate; seven grandchildren; and one great-grandson.

1958

William Reichel, physician, Timonium, Md., on May 14, 2021. Reichel, who graduated from P&S in 1961, was board certified in internal medicine and family medicine with chief interests in geriatrics and medical ethics. After his residency in internal medicine at Stanford, he spent four years at the Gerontology Research Center of the NIH. He moved to Franklin Square Hospital in Baltimore in 1970 and founded and directed the family medicine residency 1972–88. Reichel then spent nine years at Tufts, where he founded a family medicine residency and coordinated other residencies, and at Brown, where he provided international consultation for new family medicine residencies in countries including Spain, Russia and Jordan. He was active as an affiliated scholar at Georgetown's Center for Clinical Bioethics and spent 13 years on the Board of Directors of the American Geriatrics Society, including time as its president. Reichel is survived by his wife, Helen, whom he met while she was working at Columbia; son, Rob; daughter, Andrea; and five grandchildren.



William Reichel '58

Robert W. Sandall, sales executive, Colorado Springs, Colo., on July 7, 2021. Sandall was a loving family man and role model who raised his three daughters in the knowledge that women could do anything they set their hearts and minds to. He was predeceased in 2019 by his wife, Anne; and is survived by his daughters Beth Holcombe, Kristin Chappell and Diane.

William A. Schwartz, businessman, New York City, on July 9, 2021. Born and raised in Brooklyn, Schwartz graduated from Poly Prep and was a member of the swim team and Phi Gamma Delta fraternity. He was president of Blackstone Co., an East Brunswick, N.J.-based distributor of building materials. Schwartz's numerous civic and charitable involvements included service as president and board chair of the America-Israel Cultural Foundation, president of the Jewish Federation of Monmouth County, captain of the South Aberdeen Emergency Medical Service, trustee of the Kaufman Music Center and governor of the Mannes School of Music. Schwartz is survived by his wife of 60 years, Janet; sons David '86 (Hannah) and Marc '87, LAW'90 (Margot '87); and five grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to the America-Israel Cultural Foundation (aicf.org).

1960

Stephen C. Scheiber, psychiatrist and educator, Glenview, Ill., on June 20, 2020. Born in 1938, Scheiber grew up in White Plains, N.Y., and graduated from the Putney School in Vermont. A pre-med student, he also enthusiastically pursued his interest in history and was a devoted member of the St. Paul's Chapel choir. After earning an M.D. from SUNY Buffalo, Scheiber interned at the Mary Fletcher Hospital in Burlington, Vt., and served for two years in the U.S. Public Health Service with the National Institutes of Health and with the Peace Corps in Sierra Leone. He completed a psychiatry residency at Strong Memorial Hospital in Rochester, N.Y., and was appointed in 1970 to the medical faculty at Arizona, the start of a distinguished academic career. Scheiber became executive secretary of the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology in 1986 and remained in that position (and later as the board's

OTHER DEATHS REPORTED

Columbia College Today also has learned of the following deaths. Complete obituaries will be published in an upcoming issue, pending receipt of information.

1943 **Frank Herman,** research physicist, Menlo Park, Calif., on August 11, 2021.

Albert A. Sharke, engineer, Arden, N.C., on July 16, 2021.

1946 **James A. Manning,** pediatric cardiologist, Rochester, N.Y., on July 5, 2021.

1949 **Frank T. Thomas,** ophthalmologist, Madison, Conn., on October 5, 2021.

1951 **Kenneth L. Schick,** physics professor, Saratoga Springs, N.Y., on September 16, 2021.

1952 **Trowbridge H. Ford,** professor, New Haven, Conn., on July 26, 2021.

Neil J. Henry, sales executive, Mendham, N.J., on August 5, 2021.

1953 **Kenneth Nordley Skoug Jr.,** Foreign Service officer, Haleysville, Pa., on December 5, 2021.

1955 **Theodore Dischek,** radiologist, Phoenix, on August 26, 2021.

William H. Epstein, attorney, New York City and Sag Harbor, N.Y., on November 13, 2021.

Herbert S. Rubinowitz, neurologist, Phoenix, on August 22, 2021.

1956 **Frederick C. Baldwin,** photographer, Houston, on December 15, 2021.

Elias Schwartz, pediatric hematologist, Philadelphia, on July 17, 2021.

1958 **Howard J. Orlin,** accountant, New York City, N.Y., on October 18, 2021.

1959 **Eric G. Jakobsson,** science professor, Urbana, Ill., on October 28, 2021.

1960 **Laurence M. Chelmow,** engineer, Canton, Mass., on September 29, 2021.

1962 **Charles F. "Sandy" Darlington III,** attorney, South Casco, Maine, on October 12, 2021.

1966 **Michael H. Friedman,** professor, Winston-Salem, N.C., on May 27, 2021.

David S. Weissbrodt, law professor, Minneapolis, on November 11, 2021.

1967 **Mark W. Steinhoff,** history professor, Lynchburg, Va., on September 19, 2021.

1970 **Carl W. Chorba,** automobile executive, North Venice, Fla., on August 27, 2021.

1974 **Brian R. Phillips,** attorney, Bangkok, on September 13, 2021.

executive VP) for more than 20 years. Concurrently he was an adjunct professor of psychiatry at Northwestern and clinical professor at the Medical College of Wisconsin. Scheiber is survived by his wife, MaryAnn; son, Martin; daughters, Lisa Haith (Chris) and Laura Harris (Matthew); three grandchildren; one great-grandchild; sister, Carol Vachowiak (Norman); and brother, Harry '55 (Jane). Memorial contributions may be made to the Columbia College Fund (college.givenow.columbia.edu).

1961

Arnold J. Goldberg, chemical engineer, Palm Beach Gardens, Fla., on September 22, 2021. Goldberg earned a B.S. from SEAS in 1962 and a Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota, both in chemical engineering. After a varied career, he retired as president of AIG Loss Control Services. Goldberg was predeceased by his wife, Linda, and is survived by his children, Robin and Diana '89. Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of Palm Beach County (hpbcf.org).

Eric D. Rosenfeld, attorney, Millbrook, N.Y., on August 24, 2021. After graduating from Harvard Law, Rosenfeld practiced corporate and real estate law with Rosenfeld, Fischbein, Bernstein & Tannenhauser for more than 40 years. After moving to the Hudson Valley in 1979, he pursued an entrepreneurial passion for deals and land conservation as a founding member of the Dutchess Land Conservancy. Rosenfeld also was at various times a member of The University Club of New York, The Explorers Club, Harvard Club, Mashomack Preserve, Millbrook Golf & Tennis Club, The Fusiliers, Tamarack Preserve and Squadron A Association in addition to being a founding member of Millbrook Polo, where he exercised his passion for riding. He also had a lifelong interest in history, particularly military history. Rosenfeld is survived by his wife of 36 years, Diane "Dede"; and son, Timothy. Memorial contributions may be made to the Dutchess Land Conservancy (dutchessland.org).

1962

Charles F. "Lucky" Bowers Jr., attorney, Edgeworth, Pa., on September 19, 2020. Bowers was a member of Beta Theta Pi and was active with the Columbia Alumni Association. After graduating cum laude from the Law School in 1965, he returned to New Brighton, Pa., where he grew up, to practice law with noted trial attorney James B. Ceris. In 1991, he formed a partnership with his son, Charles F. Bowers III, and James J. Ross, which grew to include Kenneth G. Fawcett and continued for more than 23 years until Ross became a judge. Sherri Hurst joined the firm shortly thereafter and Bowers practiced with his partners in Bowers, Fawcett & Hurst until his passing. A skilled civil and criminal litigator, he was proud of having served more than 50 years as the borough solicitor for his hometown. In 2019 the Western Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers Association presented him its Champion of Justice award. Bowers was predeceased by his wife, Janice, and brother, R. Lance Bowers, and is survived by his son, Charles F. III (Aileen); daughters, Julie Adams (Chris) and Jill Gray; and one grandson. Memorial contributions may be made to the Beaver County Bar Association (bcba-pa.org).

Harry J. Quayle, science teacher, Steuben, Maine, on September 29, 2020. Born on Christmas Eve, 1940, in Brooklyn, Quayle taught science for seven years at Poly Prep Country Day School in Brooklyn and then for more than 30 years at Randolph (N.J.) H.S. He enjoyed being outdoors and took his family on many vacations to the National Parks; weekend hikes in the mountains of New Jersey and in Acadia National Park; kayak and motorboat adventures; biking trips; and tide pooling along the rocky coast of Maine look-

Peter L. Zimroth '63, New York Attorney Dedicated to Public Service

Peter L. Zimroth '63 was a lifelong New Yorker and an attorney who worked for the betterment of his city. As NYC's chief legal officer, he drafted a public campaign financing law that became a model for other municipalities, and as a court-appointed monitor he oversaw reforms in the NYPD's controversial stop-and-frisk policy without a consequent increase in crime.

Zimroth, who was a partner with the firm of Arnold & Porter for 25 years and a founding director of the Center on Civil Justice at NYU Law, died on November 7, 2021. The Center on the Administration of Criminal Law at NYU Law has been renamed in his honor.

"Peter was a brilliant lawyer dedicated to public service and to this institution, as well as a beloved colleague and friend," said NYU Law Dean Trevor Morrison. "His legacy will endure through both the work he did during his lifetime and the ongoing mission of the center named in his honor."

Zimroth, who was married to actress Estelle Parsons, served as New York City's chief legal officer under Mayor Ed Koch 1987–89, during which time he fought bias against women, who frequently were denied admittance to private clubs. He also was instrumental in the creation of the city's voluntary system of public campaign financing, a model that was adopted by many other local governments.

Later in his career, Zimroth was appointed by Judge Shira A. Scheindlin of the Federal District Court in New York to oversee reforms in the NYPD's stop-question-and-frisk crime-control strategy. The stops were found to disproportionately single out Black and Hispanic New Yorkers, which Scheindlin called a "policy of indirect racial profiling." While she elected not to halt the tactic, she chose Zimroth to monitor racial disparities in the number of stops as well as reforms in the department's training and procedures. He served in that role 2013–20.

"He was a superb lawyer and wonderful colleague for whom intellectual honesty always informed his advocacy positions," Richard D. Emery, a prominent civil liberties lawyer, told *The New York Times.* "He was fair, balanced and superbly articulate for his causes."

Zimroth was born on January 11, 1943, and raised in the Bensonhurst section of Brooklyn. He recalled watching Jackie Robinson, the first Black baseball player in the major leagues, on TV with his grandfather, who urged him to fight injustice wherever he found it. He graduated from Abraham Lincoln H.S. at 16 and attended Yale Law, where he was editor of *The Yale Law Journal* before graduating in 1966.

Zimroth clerked for Judge David L. Bazelon of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia and for U.S. Associate Supreme Court Justice Abe Fortas. He taught at NYU Law, served as an assistant federal prosecutor in Manhattan and as chief assistant to longtime Manhattan district attorney Robert M. Morgenthau before joining Arnold & Porter in 1990.

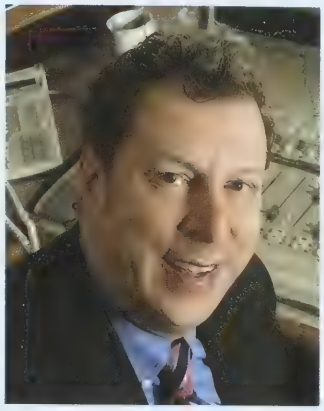


"I've been a prosecutor, a defense lawyer, a teacher; I've been an administrator," he told the *Times* in 1987. "And I really feel very strongly about using the law as an instrument for social good. That's why I became a lawyer."

In addition to his wife, whom he married in 1983, Zimroth is survived by his son, Abraham; stepdaughters, Martha Gehman and Abbie Britton; sister, Alice Kelly; four grandchildren; and one great-granddaughter.

— Alex Sachare '71

Phil Schaap '73, Noted Jazz Historian, Programmer and Educator



Philip V. "Phil" Schaap '73 walked into the WKCR studios during his freshman year and never left. During the next half-century, he became synonymous with jazz at the radio station, in New York City and beyond.

"He knows more about us than we know about ourselves," jazz drummer and bebop pioneer Max Roach said of Schaap in a 2001 article in *The New York Times.* David Remnick, editor of *The New Yorker,* wrote in a 2008 profile of Schaap, "In the capital of jazz, he is its most passionate and voluble fan."

Schaap, who was renowned for his encyclopedic memory and passion for bebop saxophonist Charlie Parker, died on September 7, 2021. The historian and longtime radio host was recognized as a Jazz Master by the National Endowment of the Arts (NEA) earlier in 2021; during the course of his career he was awarded six Grammys, as a producer and for liner notes.

Born on April 6, 1951, Schaap grew up steeped in jazz. His father, Wally '37, was a translator for French jazz scholars, and his mother, Marjorie, was a librarian and a classically trained pianist; they lived in Hollis, Queens, the so-called bedroom community of jazz. As Schaap told *CCT* in the Fall 2020 feature "Radio Days," "The pioneers of jazz were still alive then, and I had known them from literally infancy."

Schaap was instrumental in growing WKCR from a student radio station into a celebrated jazz destination. Recalling a staff meeting in fall 1970, Schaap said, "It became clear that we could create something, on our own initiative, that would be broadcast to New York City and the metropolitan region. We decided to pursue alternative programming — we were going to present culture, primarily music, that had no commercial following; music that we thought needed to be heard."

His two longest-running shows, *Bird Flight* and *Traditions in Swing,* had been on the air since 1981. Along the way, he helped to establish many of the station's signature offerings, including music marathons that dedicated 24 hours or more to the oeuvre of a single artist, as well as live performances and musician interviews.

"Phil was so many things: a tireless evangelist for jazz and its artists, a virtuoso in all areas of radio broadcasting and the recording arts, a teacher, a historian, a meticulous craftsman, an obsessive in the extreme," recalled Jamie Katz '72, BUS'80, WKCR's jazz director 1969–70, who assured Schaap he would get airtime to play the music he loved. "His contributions at WKCR are legendary, not only as a program host, but also as a fundraiser, producer, engineer, archivist, mentor and beacon of integrity who was the very soul of the station for half a century, all of it pro bono."

A self-described "jazz activist," Schaap managed The Countsmen, featuring members of Count Basie's Orchestra, 1972–91. He also programmed live music for The West End and was a curator for Jazz at Lincoln Center, where he created the educational program Swing University. He taught at Columbia, Princeton, Rutgers, the Manhattan School of Music, Juilliard and Jazz at Lincoln Center, and was an audio restoration specialist.

"Phil Schaap was a person of deep integrity, conviction and purpose," renowned trumpeter and jazz educator Wynton Marsalis said in the *New Yorker* profile, "and that purpose was to spread the gospel of jazz."

"Phil's contribution to the world's understanding of the music known as jazz must never be undervalued," said Sharif Abdus-Salaam '74, who worked with Schaap at WKCR and became a lifelong friend. "He worked tirelessly and unselfishly to share with those who would listen, the knowledge he gleaned from research and interviews with many of the masters of our beloved art form. He constantly reminded me that the work to increase jazz awareness and appreciation must continue."

Last spring, Schaap received the A.B. Spellman NEA Jazz Masters Fellowship for Jazz Advocacy, which annually goes to a figure whose contribution occurs off the bandstand. In an NEA interview, Schaap discussed his work of building audiences: "There's a lot to teach, but all jazz education is performance oriented. Well, who's going to train the listeners? I've spent a lifetime trying. I'm trying to create an audience for the musicians. That's my job. … I teach listening."

Schaap is survived by his partner of 17 years, Susan Shaffer.

— Alex Sachare '71

ing for marine creatures. Quayle led a lifetime of service through faith, starting with Bay Ridge Baptist Church in Brooklyn before moving on to First Baptist Church of Newton, N.J., and finally First Baptist Church of Cherryfield, Maine. He was a deacon, Sunday School teacher, handyman, fill-in preacher, treasurer, usher and emergency organist. He taught himself Hebrew because he wanted to read the Bible as it was originally written, and he brought Bibles with him everywhere to hand out. Quayle is survived by his wife of 57 years, Joanne; sons, Matt and Dan; daughters-in-law, Betty Quick and Patty; four grandchildren; and sister, Lory Lockerbie (Bruce). Memorial contributions may be made to the Gideons (sendtheword.org); First Baptist Church of Cherryfield, Maine (facebook.com/First-Baptist-Church-Cherryfield-Maine-427258604284349); World Vision International (worldvision.org); or Samaritan's Purse (samaritanspurse.org).

1963

Samuel C. Fromowitz, diplomat, Yountville, Calif., on April 7, 2021. Born on June 10, 1942, in the Bronx, Fromowitz studied history and politics and began his diplomatic career at 21 in Washington, D.C. He held posts in Paris (1965–66), Toronto (1966–68), Belgrade (1969–71), Moscow (1974–76) and Athens (1980–83). Fromowitz lived in Arlington, Va., between assignments and was awarded a congressional fellowship, working for Rep. John Joseph Cavanaugh III (D-Neb.) and Sen. Gary Hart (D-Colo.). He was the U.S. consul general in Vancouver 1986–90, during which time he was presented the Meritorious Honor Award for best-managed post. Fromowitz returned to Athens in 1990 and retired from the Foreign Service in 1995. He lived in Vancouver for three years before moving to Yountville, where he volunteered with Meals on Wheels and the Napa Red Cross and was a founding board member of Pathway House, a residential assistance program for military personnel with PTSD. Fromowitz is survived by his wife of nearly 57 years, Joan (née McGraw); sons, David and Daniel (Stacey); daughter, Rachel Martin (Michael); and four grandchildren.

1965

James T. "Boo" Boosales, businessman, Palm Harbor, Fla., on August 25, 2021. Born on April 18, 1943, Boosales grew up in Chicago and graduated from Niles H.S., where he excelled in both academics and athletics. He played freshman football at Columbia and made many lifelong friendships with his brothers at Beta Theta Pi fraternity. Boosales had a long career in business, mostly in the toy industry, working for Parker Brothers, Lionel Trains and Fisher-Price. He also worked in the

golf industry with Foot-Joy, and was the company's president in the 1980s. His final career stop was as chief financial officer of SRI/Surgical Express in the 1990s; he took an early retirement in 2002. During retirement, Boosales was an active member of Innisbrook, enjoying his time on the golf course and in the clubhouse. He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Bonny; daughter, Catherine; and son, David.

Robert W. Gunn, psychotherapist, Virginia Beach, on March 12, 2021. Born on October 11, 1943, in Cairo, Ill., Gunn earned an M.Div. and a Ph.D. from Union Theological Seminary and a D.Min. from Andover Newton Theological School, now part of Yale Divinity. Dunn was a psychotherapist in New York City for the majority of his life before moving to Virginia Beach, as he contemplated retirement and wanted to be closer to his family. He was a pianist and avid scuba diver who loved to travel and try new things. Gunn is survived by his sister, Jeanne Akins; daughters, Allison Gunn (Mark Ostevik) and Lara Wiggins (Mario); and four grandchildren.

1969

Stuart H. Scott, environmentalist, Honolulu, on July 15, 2021. Scott grew up in New York City and majored in mathematics and computer science. He taught middle school, toured the United States as a minstrel and street performer and was a stockbroker for Merrill Lynch before earning an M.S. in computer and information science from Florida. Scott worked for IBM and settled in Hawaii, where he honed his IT skills while teaching philosophy, critical thinking and statistics. After watching Al Gore's *An Inconvenient Truth* in 2006, he became deeply involved with Gore's Climate Project and devoted the remainder of his life to communicating the urgent severity of our current growth economic systems' impact on Earth's climate and habitability. Scott was known for his visibility at UN-sponsored climate negotiations known as Conferences of Parties, or COPS. In 2018, he brought Greta Thunberg and her father, Svante, to COP-24 in Poland, from which Thunberg's message to world leaders marked her as a spokesperson for youth and future generations. Scott founded ClimateMatters.TV, ScientistsWarning.TV, FacingFuture.TV, the United Planet Faith & Science Initiative and the Circle of Elders of Ecological Economics. He is survived by his sons, Sean and Joshua; sister, Diana; and brother, David.

1974

Christian P. Hansen, software testing professional, London, on September 3, 2021. Born in Salem, Mass., and raised in nearby Marblehead, Hansen majored in Latin and Greek. After working in New York for 21 years, he moved to Chicago in 1991 and San Francisco two years later. In 1994 he moved to London, where he worked for 15 years, retiring as a software testing professional in 2009. Hansen was active as a lay member of the Church of England; he was Sacristan of St Matthews at the Elephant parish for 23 years and was also lay chair of the deanery and a member of various committees in Southwark Diocese. Hansen became a Freemason in 2005, then was made Master of Goliath Lodge and received London Grand Rank in 2019. He became a joining member of Philanthropic Lodge in Marblehead and a founding member of his University Lodge, Columbia 1139, in New York. Hansen is survived by his husband, Tan Wai-Liang; brother, Harold (Beth Feran); and sister, Ruth. Memorial contributions may be made to any medical charity, especially those relating to ALS or diabetes.

1976

Michael S. Billig, anthropology professor, Lancaster, Pa., on February 17, 2021. Born in Rockaway, Queens, Billig majored in anthropology and earned an M.A. from GSAS in 1979 and a Ph.D. from Harvard in 1987. He was a professor of anthropology at Franklin & Marshall for 35 years and in 2006 was presented the Lindback Award for Distinguished Teaching, F&M's highest teaching honor. Billig authored more than 20 articles and reviews as well as the book *Barons, Brokers, and Buyers: The Institutions and Cultures of Philippine Sugar* (2003), and was an expert on the economic anthropology of cultures transitioning to capitalism. He was a devotee of opera, folk music, race-walking and fishing, and a member of the Alumni Representative Committee. Billig is survived by his wife, Heidi Wolf; sisters, Ronda and Melinda; daughters, Shira Keith (David) and Monica; and two grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Museum of Natural History (amnh.org), the Metropolitan Opera (metopera.org) or the Lymphoma and Leukemia Society (lls.org).

1979

Martin J. Dunn, attorney and politician, Holyoke, Mass., on September 11, 2020. Born and raised in Holyoke, Dunn was captain of the basketball team and quarterback for the football team at Holyoke H.S., and then attended Northfield Mount Herman School in Gill, Mass. He continued to play football at Columbia, and went on to earn a J.D. from Suffolk University Law. Dunn returned to his beloved Holyoke to practice law and served on the Board of Aldermen before being elected mayor in 1987. After two terms, he served as a Massachusetts state senator before serving as attorney for the State Senate. Dunn was a partner in the law firm of Dunn & Wilson in Holyoke at the time of his death. He was a member of myriad civic organizations and boards and enjoyed participating in many events during Holyoke's St. Patrick's Day weekend, including running the Annual St. Patrick's Day Road Race. He was particularly proud of having completed five marathons, including Boston and Chicago. Dunn is survived by his wife of 34 years, Kathleen Destromp. Memorial contributions may be made to the Greater Holyoke YMCA (holyokeymca.org) or to the Maurice A. Donahue Memorial Scholarship Fund, AOH Division, Holyoke, PO Box 6535, Holyoke, MA 01041-6535.

1985

Graham S. Haber, photographer and videographer, New York City, on June 12, 2021. Born in London on February 21, 1963, Haber grew up in Boston and traveled extensively with his parents and two brothers,



Graham S. Haber '85

which inspired a lifelong enjoyment of travel and discovery. After attending the Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, Calif., he moved back to New York in 1989 and was the principal at Graham Haber Photography until 2010, when he became senior photographer for The Morgan Library & Museum; he worked there until his death. Haber is survived by his wife, Anastasia; daughter, Zola; and twin sons, Miles and Lucas.

1987

Christopher N. Lasch, law professor, Evergreen, Colo., on June 13, 2021. A 1996 graduate of Yale Law, Lasch dedicated his life and career to helping others as a public defender, a civil rights lawyer and a clinical law professor. He taught as a research scholar and Cover Fellow at the Yale Law clinic, as a visiting clinical professor at Suffolk Law and finally as a professor at Denver University Sturm College of Law. Lasch is survived by his wife, Elizabeth Stovall; son, Rain Ellis; daughter, Grace Perry Noe; mother, Nell; brother, Robert; sisters, Kate Loomis and Elizabeth Lasch-Quinn; and one grandchild.

1991

David W. Kaiser, environmental activist, New York City, on July 15, 2020. Born on July 27, 1969, in Cambridge, Mass., Kaiser was a scion of the Rockefeller family whose work as president of the Rockefeller Family Fund included promoting employment opportunities for women and advancing citizen participation in government.

Richard M. Froehlich '85, LAW'88, Affordable Housing Advocate

Richard M. Froehlich '85, LAW'88, who dedicated his career to ensuring that New Yorkers had affordable housing, died on September 24, 2021. He most recently was first executive VP and chief operating officer for the New York City Housing Development Corporation (HDC).

In 2015, when he received a Public Service Award at the New York Housing Conference, Froehlich recalled, "I went to school [in New York] in the '80s, and it was an interesting time; the city was changing … I might have woken up when I was writing a piece for the Columbia newspaper *(Spectator)*. I saw people who might be homeless, people who were having challenges. That was important to me, to see that and to think about how I might be able to make a contribution."

Following law school, Froehlich was of counsel at O'Melveny & Meyers, where he was involved in numerous multi-family housing transactions representing equity investors, lenders, credit enhancers and issuers in bond-financed transactions. He joined the HDC as general counsel in 2003 and eventually directed the corporation's bond finance and operating activities.

Froehlich was a primary coordinator of HDC's award-winning preservation efforts, which led to the continued affordability of more than 140,000 units of low- and middle-income housing in New York City. He was a leader in designing and implementing HDC's participation in Mayor Bill de Blasio's Housing New York plan to build and preserve 300,000 units of affordable housing.

"Rich is incredibly creative," Vicky Been, former commissioner of the NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development and now a law professor at NYU, said in 2015. "Whatever the problem, Rich could see a way to solve that problem that none of the rest of us had ever thought of. He's just really good at spinning straw into gold."

In 2014 Froehlich became a member of the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board, a self-regulatory organization created under the Federal Securities Act Amendments of 1975 to regulate the municipal finance industry, serving a four-year term. He also was elected to the board of the National Association of Local Housing Finance Agencies in 2014 and was its president.

"His ability to manage complex negotiations while keeping the interest of the city at heart will be a lasting legacy," said Shola Olatoye, former chair and CEO of the NYC Housing Authority and now director of housing and community development in Oakland, Calif.

Froehlich brought his knowledge of public and affordable housing finance into the classroom as an adjunct associate professor at GSAPP, where he taught courses on affordable housing finance and public finance.

"Building the next generation of people to work in the affordable housing industry is the greatest challenge for all of us," said Been. "Rich put incredible time and effort into mentoring people to try to fill that next generation of leadership."

Froehlich had a passion for the arts and particularly for music, and was a member of the Stonewall Chorale since 1991. He was honored in 2019 for his long tenure with the Chorale.

Froehlich was predeceased by his husband, Dr. Joseph DiVito, and is survived by his siblings and in-laws: Steven and Linda Froehlich, Charles and Gail Froehlich, Alan and Jodi



Cohn, Jo Ann Cohn, Shari and Martin Cohn-Simmen, Vivien and Tom Barcia, Barry and Deborah Cohn, Jennifer and Colin Marsh and Thomas DeVito.

Memorial contributions may be made to New Destiny, an organization aiding survivors of domestic violence (newdestinyhousing.org); the Stonewall Chorale (stonewallchorale.org); or the SUNY Downstate Joseph DiVito M.D. Scholarship and Education Fund (downstate.edu/giving/scholarships/memorial-donations.html).

— Alex Sachare '71

He was the great-great-grandson of John D. Rockefeller, who founded Standard Oil in the 19th century and became the world's richest person. In 2016, the family fund announced that it would divest from ExxonMobil for what Kaiser called the company's "morally reprehensible conduct" regarding its ignoring the potential harmful effects of climate change, setting off a prolonged legal battle and war of words among family members. Kaiser is survived by his mother, Neva R. Goodwin; wife, Rosemary Corbett; and two daughters.

1993

Dennis M. Lafferty, financial executive, Brielle, N.J., on August 11, 2021. Born and raised in Buffalo, where he excelled at track and football, Lafferty played three years of varsity football for the Lions. After earning an M.B.A. from the Business School in 2001, he had a notable career on Wall Street, where he was well known within the distressed credit community. He led trading teams at Deutsche Bank and Goldman Sachs, but said his biggest success was his family. Lafferty met his wife of 13 years, Ellen (née Winkler), in the elevator at work and often said, "By the time we got to the first floor, we knew." They were married the following year and lived in Manhattan and Brooklyn, with weekends and summers at the Jersey Shore, in Manasquan, before settling in Brielle. An avid Buffalo Bills fan, Lafferty was forever proud of his hometown. He is survived by his wife; daughters, Audrey and Emily; sons, Liam and Ben; father, Raymond (Kyle); mother, Mary Cone (Jim); brother, Edward; and sisters, Katie Tonsoline and Riane. Memorial donations may be made to Compassionate Care ALS (ccals.org/in_memory_of/dennis-lafferty) or ALS Research at the Healey Center for ALS at Mass General (tackleALS.com/team/change-als).

Michael J. Sardo, intelligence analyst, Silver Spring, Md., on July 2, 2021. Sardo played baseball, football and basketball at Bethpage H.S. on Long Island but focused on football for the Lions, switching from quarterback to wide receiver and earning All-Ivy honorable mention in 1991 and 1992. As a senior he caught 13 passes against Cornell — at the time a school record — and a game-winning 40-yard TD against Brown, and ranked fifth in receptions in Division 1-AA. He finished his career with 124 receptions to rank sixth in Columbia history and participated in the 1993 Japan Bowl all-star game. Sardo enrolled in the biochemistry Ph.D. program at North Carolina, where he specialized in cancer research, but while in graduate school, he was diagnosed with an aggressive form of leukemia. A lengthy, difficult recovery period ended with his having lost the ability to walk, and his College sweetheart and future wife, Kathleen Johnson '93, became his full-time caregiver. Sardo earned an M.A. from North Carolina and his science background guided his longtime work as an FBI intelligence analyst. He applied his passion for sports to coaching his sons, Darrion and Sedric, in youth baseball, and when he wasn't on the sidelines, he was on the field or at the gym, attending their basketball and soccer games. In addition to his wife and sons, Sardo is survived by his father, John; mother, Barbara; and sister, Katherine. Memorial contributions may be made to bccbaseball.com/post/in-memory-of-mike-sardo.

— Alex Sachare '71

read *it* online



MICHAEL EDMONSON '20

TAKE YOUR BEST SHOT: The 2021 Tree Lighting was held on December 2.

CCT

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WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO START A TRADITION?

On long winter nights, the twinkling, light-wrapped trees on College Walk are a comfort in the dark. But did you know that the Tree Lighting Ceremony — a night of food, music and activities counting down to the first moment of illumination — is one of Columbia's newer traditions, only beginning in 1998?



Core to Commencement is the Columbia College campaign for students and the faculty who teach them. In the last six years, more than 45,000 alumni, parents, students and friends have made possible new and expanded opportunities that are preparing students to change the world.

With six months to go, our goal is within reach, **but we can only get there with your support**.

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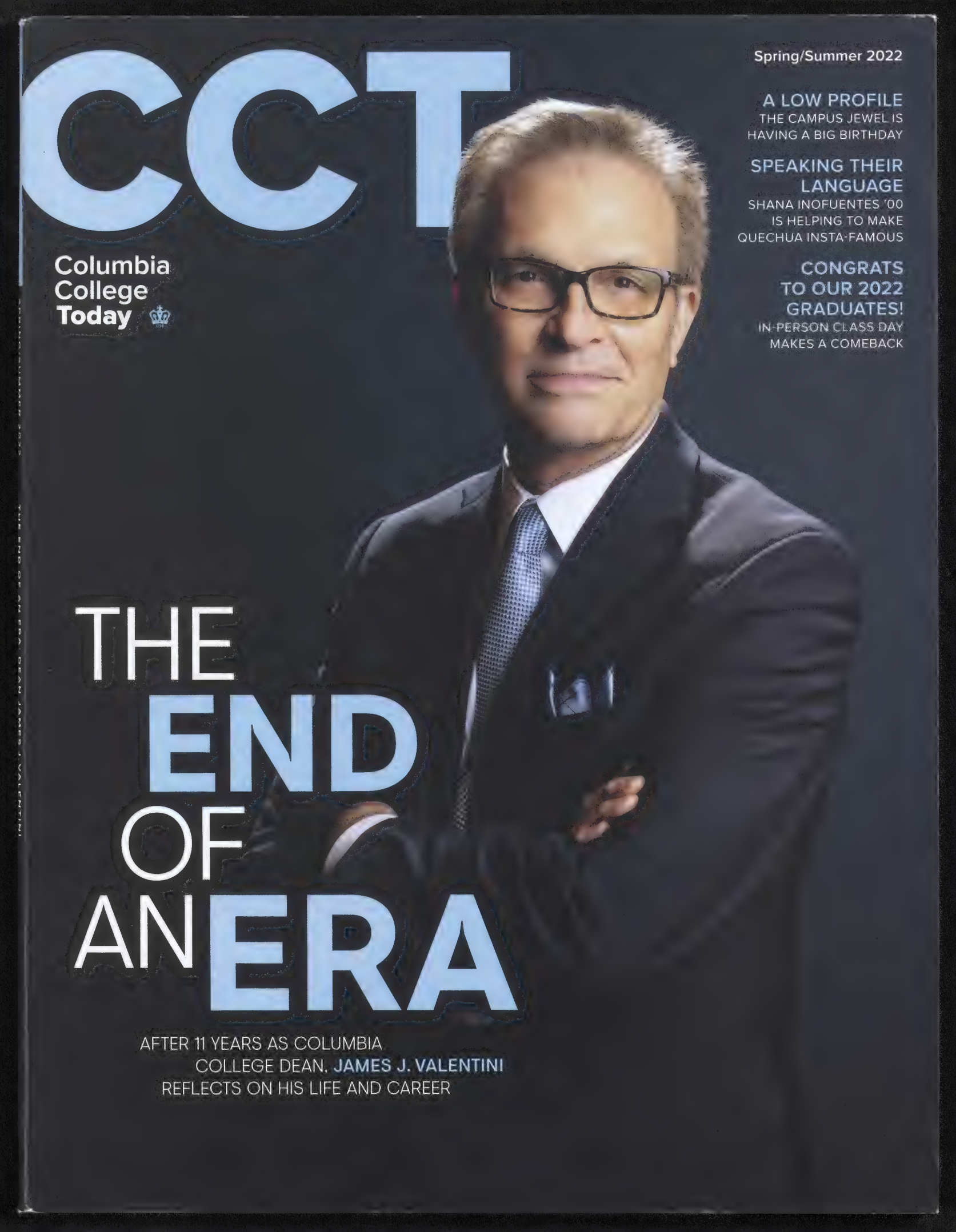
Columbia College Today

Spring/Summer 2022

A LOW PROFILE
THE CAMPUS JEWEL IS HAVING A BIG BIRTHDAY

SPEAKING THEIR LANGUAGE
SHANA INOFUENTES '00 IS HELPING TO MAKE QUECHUA INSTA-FAMOUS

CONGRATS TO OUR 2022 GRADUATES!
IN-PERSON CLASS DAY MAKES A COMEBACK



THE END OF AN ERA

AFTER 11 YEARS AS COLUMBIA COLLEGE DEAN, **JAMES J. VALENTINI** REFLECTS ON HIS LIFE AND CAREER

SPRING/SUMMER 2022 THE END OF AN ERA: DEAN JAMES J. VALENTINI

Financial aid has enabled me to pursue my education without any worry about student debt or concern for how I will pay for my everyday expenses. I am only able to be a part of this impossibly exciting, challenging and empowering experience because of generous donor support.

— Joseph Nthumba CC'24



Gifts to the Columbia College Fund help the College meet 100 percent of a student's demonstrated financial need for all four years of study. Your contribution makes this ambitious and progressive financial aid policy possible and provides students like Joseph the opportunity to pursue a Columbia education.

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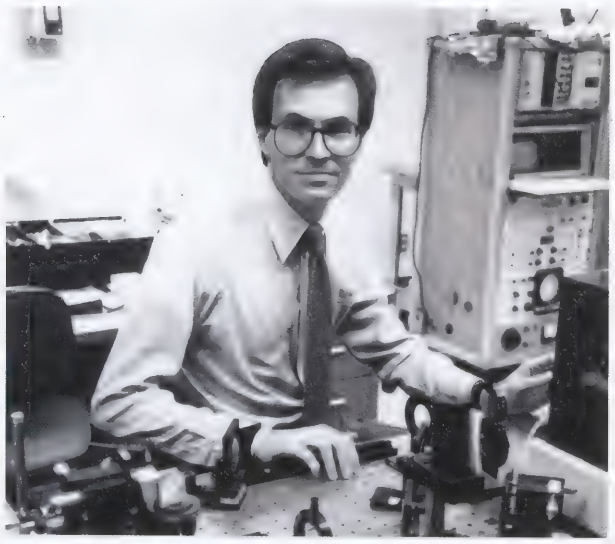
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Becoming Deantini

After 11 years as Columbia College dean, James J. Valentini reflects on his life and career.

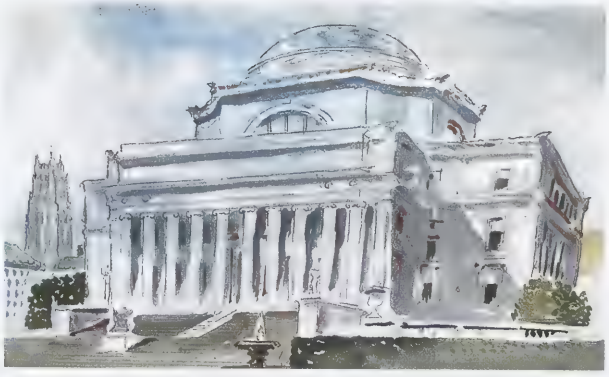
By Alexis Boncy SOA'11



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Happy 125th Birthday, Low!

We pay tribute to the campus centerpiece, completed in 1897.



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Shana Inofuentes '00 harnesses the power of social media for Indigenous language preservation.

By Anne-Ryan Sirju JRN'09



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Hats Off to the 2022 Graduates

The College joyfully returns to an in-person Class Day.



Cover: Photograph by Jörg Meyer

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JORG MEYER

Within the Family

The End of an Era

My first day of work at Columbia came less than two months after James J. Valentini was appointed interim dean in September 2011. At the time, I didn't realize what it would mean to join the College at such a page-turning moment — that an institution such as this is far from static, and how a dean is not only entrusted with ensuring its continuance and well-being, but also is given an opportunity to set a direction and foster change in any number of ways.

I remember, early on, in a meeting with other teams that worked with alumni, that Dean Valentini redefined graduates as "former students" and prospectives as "future students." The new vocabulary felt strange; wasn't it just semantics? As a writer, I should have known better. Those words contained a powerful vision — of a unified and connected community, made up of people at all stages of their College experience — that under the dean's leadership has been ushered from idea to reality. In retrospect, it was also evidence of his Beginner's Mind at work, approaching the world as if seeing everything for the first time.

Of course, I have been thinking about these early impressions because the dean's tenure is nearly at an end, bringing with it all the reflection such a moment requires. Dean Valentini will have been in his role for more than a decade when he steps down on June 30 — long enough to qualify as an era, and a transformational one at that. From the landmark fundraising of the Core to Commencement campaign, to the modernization of the Core Curriculum, to the changes in student culture engendered by My Columbia College Journey and Live Well | Learn Well, he has dramatically influenced every corner of College life.

I had the privilege of interviewing Dean Valentini for this issue's cover story. Though I'd spoken with him over the years, it had always been brief; this would be something new (and thus a bit nerve-wracking). But there was no need for jitters. The dean was gracious and generous with his time, inviting me into his office on two occasions and staying open to my questions, wherever they took the conversation — from his upbringing in Lafferty, Ohio, to his life in college and early adulthood. He was modest, forthright and unerringly precise, often revising mid-sentence in the interest of absolute accuracy. I was moved that he shared so many vivid and personal recollections. And I am honored to share his story.

Elsewhere in the issue, we meet Shana Inofuentes '00, the co-founder of The Quechua Project, who is harnessing the power of social media to help preserve Bolivia's second-most common language. Here, she speaks powerfully about the dangers of Indigenous language erasure and her aim to empower and instill cultural pride in Quechua speakers — especially the younger generations. We also wish Low Library a very happy (125th!) birthday, with highlights from the Columbia University Archives and perspectives from alumni architects and historians on what makes it special.

I'd also urge you not to miss the Big Picture, where we introduce John Jay Hall's avian residents, or our coverage of Class Day and Commencement. The joy at Columbia's first in-person graduation ceremonies in three years was palpable, and we send all of our newest alumni best wishes for the chapters that lie ahead.

We send those same wishes to Dean Valentini: May you meet with sunny skies and an open road this summer; thank you for everything, and we're happy to know we'll be able to find you in Havemeyer again soon.

Alexis Boncy

Alexis Boncy SOA'11
Editor-in-Chief

CCT | Columbia College Today

VOLUME 49 NUMBER 3
SPRING/SUMMER 2022

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Published three times a year by Columbia College for alumni, students, faculty, parents and friends.

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ISSN 0572-7820

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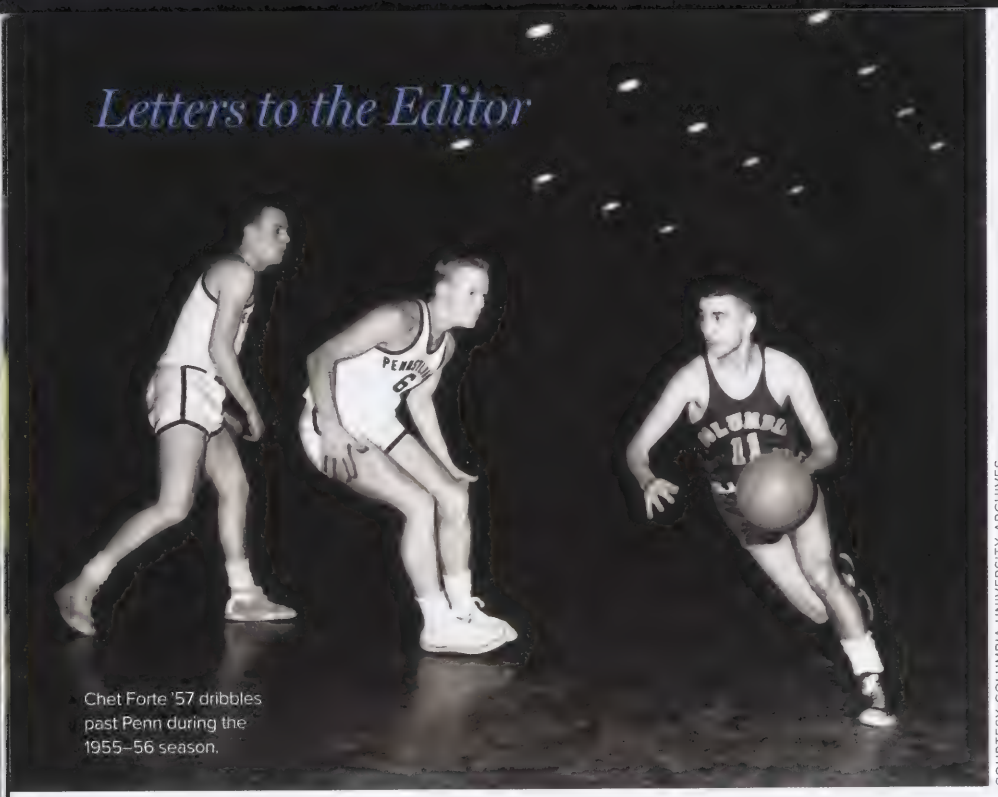
Hawk Eyed

A pair of red-tailed hawks captured the hearts of students and alumni alike when the raptors built their nest on John Drotos '25's 10th-floor John Jay balcony this past spring. Soon three eggs appeared, and the watchful parents became social media sensations. An online naming contest led to the pair being dubbed Ruth and Martin Ginsbirds, in memory of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg LAW'59 and her husband. A webcam live-broadcast their every move, and when two eyases hatched in April, it was cause for celebration!

JORG MEYER


the Big Picture

Letters to the Editor



Chet Forte '57 dribbles past Penn during the 1955–56 season.

COURTESY COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

What About Chet?

I enjoyed the "Roar, Lion, Roar" article "Memorable Moments in Lions Basketball" by Alex Sachare '71 [Winter 2021–22], but I was surprised that the 1956–57 season was not included. Guard Chet Forte '57 averaged 28.9 ppg, was first team All-America, UPI Player of the Year (beating out Wilt Chamberlain), first team All-Ivy and the Haggerty Award winner that season. His Columbia number, 40, is retired. He and Ted Dwyer '57, PS'61 forged a scoring duo, coached by the beloved Lou Rossini, that our class will never forget.

Michael J. Messer '59
Lafayette, Calif.

Omitting the life and times of Chet Forte '57 from "Memorable Moments in Lions Basketball" is unforgivable! I was in high school when Forte played for Columbia and, largely due to him, the games were televised.

Matt Chamlin '61, BUS'64
New York City

I enjoyed immensely the trip down basketball memory lane, courtesy of "Memorable Moments in Lions Basketball." Reminiscent of the March 1968 victory over Princeton, another win of much more intensity occurred on January 18, 1964, in University Gym. The visiting Tigers, led by Bill Bradley, the best college basketball player I ever saw in person, never led the game. Despite Bradley's 36 points, Lion defenders put the lid on the rest of the opponent's players. Final score: Columbia 69, Princeton 66. Kudos to Coach Jack Rohan '53 and that wonderful squad of hoopsters! Meanwhile, Jim Larson '66 (ahem!) never made varsity but started one game on the Columbia frosh team in 1962–63. Fouled out early … scored 0 points.

Jim Larson '66
Seaford, Del.

Contact Us

CCT welcomes letters from readers about articles in the magazine but cannot print or personally respond to all letters received. Letters express the views of the writers and not *CCT*, the College or the University. All letters are subject to editing for space, clarity and *CCT* style. Please submit Letters to the Editor online: college.columbia.edu/cct/contact-us.

Art Hum Envy

As an irregular reader of *Columbia College Today,* I start but often don't finish the articles. Please accept my praise for the last issue [Winter 2021–22]. It was a pleasure to read and see the artwork in the article referring to the Core Curriculum ["What's New, Art Hum?"]. You managed to make me jealous of the new students, some of whom I am interviewing by phone through the Alumni Representative Committee for the Class of 2026.

The only bummer: I am forced to purchase Roosevelt Montás '95, GSAS'04's memoir, *Rescuing Socrates: How the Great Books Changed My Life and Why They Matter for a New Generation,* from Princeton University Press. OMG!

Keep up the good work and good reporting for our school.

Bob Gabel '69
Little Silver, N.J.

Must-See (College!) TV

Thank you very much for the Amanda Peet '94 cover story ["Twice the Talent," Winter 2021–22]; it is always great to hear about prominent alumni. My wife, Randy Lara Sargent Lee NRS'82, and I loved the episodes of *The Chair* on Netflix! Thank goodness *CCT* provided us with the entertainment alert. Please keep up the good work. I always look forward to the latest issue.

William Lee '79
Valhalla, N.Y.

Wondrous Columbia

I just finished reading the CC'52 Class Notes column in the Winter 2021–22 issue. Wow! It is 70 years since I left the Columbia University campus but I have not forgotten the many memories of friends both in class and at extracurricular activities. It was at least in the 1970s, when out of the Navy and working, that I fully realized the wondrous education I had received at Columbia College. Now, at 91, I know how privileged I was to attend the College and then P&S. From the 17-year-old with a beanie in 1948 to 2022, I have been blessed, and I am thankful for my years at Columbia. Roar, Lion, Roar!

Carl Meier '52, PS'56
Fort Myers, Fla.

Message from the Dean

The College's Collective Inheritance

Dean James J. Valentini steps down on June 30 as dean and vice president for undergraduate education. The following is adapted from remarks he gave at a special gathering of alumni, faculty, students and staff, held on April 27 at Gotham Hall in Midtown. To read more about the dean's decade-plus of leadership, visit valentini.college.columbia.edu.



DIANE BONDAREFF

Valentini with students at an event celebrating his leadership on April 27.

When I became interim dean in September 2011, the College was in a difficult state. It was clear that I needed right away to say something assertive, something that certified the centrality and value of the College to calm the fears, but also something that clearly positioned the College as part of the University. But it had to be something honest, something I truly felt, and not something simply reflective of the moment of crises. It was with that aim that I wrote "Welcome to the greatest college, in the greatest university, in the greatest city in the world."

I did not anticipate that this three-part refrain would become so frequently repeated. But that repetition, which continues today, indicates how much that refrain was needed. We all want to feel we are part of a community, and a special community at that, and this refrain has given us a memorable way to identify our community and its specialness. That College community is one of many people, and those many people are our only resource. Every single person — every faculty member, every alum, every staff member, every student — should know that their individual value contributes to that greatness, and should feel that that contribution is understood and acknowledged.

We rely on a thousand faculty and a few hundred professional staff to execute our missions. Faculty create the academic direction, they do not follow it; and the staff deal every day with situations for which there can be no rigid standard operating procedure. And the many thousands of alumni volunteers who work with us in support of our missions are not employees to be assigned jobs. So, a good dean knows that leadership is only really possible by logical reasoning and emotional inspiration of those people, and that emotional inspiration must express recognition of the value of every individual.

To present that reasoning and provide that inspiration, the dean has a large audience with whom to communicate, and a platform and a microphone with which to be heard. But the audience is only attentive, the platform is only supportive, the microphone is only useful when there are ideas to express. Those ideas have to be clear, honestly presented, open for debate by all, and easily recognized as advancing the best interests of the faculty and students of the College. Most importantly, those ideas have to be seen as respecting people, recognizing their needs and acknowledging the value of their contributions.

Pretty much all my time as dean has been focused on formulating and developing such ideas. First came the ideas, then the opportunity to inspire others to join in the action to implement them and then the satisfaction of seeing these ideas realized because of the work of tens, sometimes hundreds, of people, all working together with a common purpose. That satisfaction has been great, greater than any other in my professional life.

Many students have asked me what I want my legacy to be. My answer is that my legacy is not for me to decide; rather my legacy lives within each of them, and in every other one who has been a student during my time as dean. What I mean by that is expressed in the funeral oration of Pericles that Thucydides records in the second book of the *History of the Peloponnesian War.* Pericles describes legacy as the "memory that remains eternal in men's minds, which more than any monument will remain forever, always there on the right occasion to stir others to speech or to action."

But there are more than memories. The many programs we have built and the many efforts we initiated — Core to Commencement, My Columbia College Journey, the Global Collaboratory, Live Well | Learn Well, the Odyssey Mentoring Program, the Holder Initiative, Undergraduate Entrepreneurship and many more are neither the monuments nor the memories to which Pericles refers. They are indeed part of my legacy, but more importantly, they are the inheritance of Columbia College faculty, students and alumni of the future. So, these things must be protected and extended into the future, not as an individual legacy but as that collective inheritance.

On June 30, Deantini vanishes to emerge once again the next day as Professor Valentini, but my experience as Deantini will remain forever as a greatly fulfilling and immensely rewarding part of my life. Thank you so much for the partnerships, collaborations and true friendships I have developed. I wish Columbia College and each of you individually great success in the years to come.



James J. Valentini
Dean

Around the Quads



Josef Sorett Appointed College Dean

President Lee C. Bollinger announced on May 24 that Professor Josef Sorett will be the next dean of Columbia College and vice president of undergraduate education, effective July 1. Sorett, who has been teaching at the College since 2009, is a professor of religion and African American and African diaspora studies, chair of the Department of Religion and director of the Center on African-American Religion, Sexual Politics and Social Justice. He earned a B.S. in health and exercise science from Oral Roberts University, an M.Div. in religion and literature from Boston University and a Ph.D. in African American studies from Harvard.

Sorett's scholarship explores the vital and complex role that religion has played in shaping the cultures of Black communities and movements in the United States. His 2016 book, *Spirit in the Dark: A Religious History of Racial Aesthetics,* examines the influence of religion on debates about Black art and culture in the 20th century. His latest work is *The Sexual Politics of Black Churches.*

Sorett was presented the Presidential Award for Outstanding Teaching at this year's Commencement, held on May 18.

Trilling and Van Doren Awards



Farah Jasmine Griffin

Farah Jasmine Griffin, the William B. Ransford Professor of English and Comparative Literature and African American Studies, was honored with the 47th annual Lionel Trilling Book Award for her nonfiction book *Read Until You Understand: The Profound Wisdom of Black Life and Literature* (2021). Griffin was the inaugural chair of the African American and African Diaspora Studies Department. She is a 2021 Guggenheim Fellow and an Andrew Mellon Foundation Scholar in Residence.



David Lurie

David Lurie GSAS'01, the Wm. Theodore and Fanny Brett de Bary and Class of 1941 Collegiate Professor of Asian Humanities and an associate professor of Japanese history and literature, was presented the 61st annual Mark Van Doren Award for Teaching. Lurie was recognized for his dedication and his nuanced approaches to the Core Curriculum; students regard Lurie as a "captivating lecturer with a deep passion for [his] work on East Asian Languages and Culture."

Enhancements to Undergraduate Financial Aid

In April, the College announced several enhancements to financial aid for students and families. Beginning in the 2022–23 academic year, families with typical assets and incomes below $66,000 will not be expected to contribute to the cost of their student's education. In addition, students from families with typical assets and incomes up to $150,000 will attend Columbia tuition-free.

"These enhancements will expand access for a new generation of Columbians, increasing opportunity for students who show the promise to thrive in our environment and the curiosity and commitment to take full advantage of all the possibilities we offer," said Jessica Marinaccio, dean of undergraduate admissions and financial aid.

In addition, beginning in summer 2022, the College will offer new $2,000 start-up grants for low-income first-year students. These funds, made possible through a generous donor gift, are designed to help incoming students cover a portion of the cost associated with starting their undergraduate journey.

Guridy Named Next Executive Director of the Holder Initiative

Frank Guridy, associate professor of history and of African American and African diaspora studies, will become the next executive director and senior scholar of The Eric H. Holder Jr. Initiative for Civil and Political Rights on July 1. Named for its co-founder, former U.S. Attorney General Eric H. Holder Jr.'73, LAW'76, the Holder Initiative sponsors courses, public events, internships and fellowships that extend the themes and questions of the Core Curriculum into a contemporary context. "I am thrilled to have the opportunity to be the next director of the Holder Initiative,"



SIRIN SAMMAN

Guridy says. "I am especially excited to continue fulfilling the program's mission to combine humanistic thinking with outward-facing social justice work here in New York City. I look forward to working with Columbia students and our surrounding communities to create visions for racial and environmental justice, voting and labor rights, equitable housing and public health. I believe that students at Columbia are well positioned to address the challenges faced by the city in which they live and study."

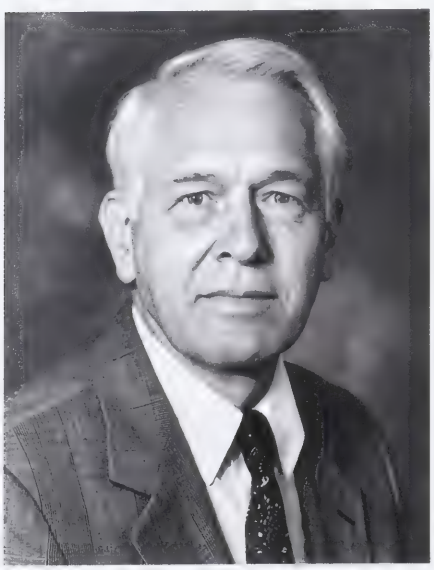
Class of 2026 Admission Decisions

Following another year of extraordinary application numbers, 2,253 students have been offered admission to the Class of 2026 by Columbia College and Columbia Engineering.

Undergraduate Admissions announced final applicant numbers in March, which reflect a combination of applications received during the early decision and regular decision cycles. The schools received a total of 60,377 applications, virtually unchanged from last year's historic 51 percent increase to 60,551 applications. This year's admission rate was 3.73 percent.

The admitted class hails from all 50 states and 86 countries. Reflecting the growing diversity of Columbia's student body, the number of admitted students who identified as students of color increased by 4 percent over last year and first-generation students increased by 3 percent.

In Memoriam: Douglas A. Chalmers, Political Science Professor and University Administrator



COURTESY JOSHUA CHALMERS '86

Douglas A. Chalmers, a beloved and esteemed professor of political science, died on April 4, 2022, from complications of Parkinson's disease. He was 90.

Chalmers was born in 1932 in Madison, Wisc.; in 1936, the family moved to Geneva. In 1939, they relocated to Washington, D.C., and Chalmers graduated from Woodrow Wilson H.S. He completed his early studies at the University Laboratory H.S. (Uni High) in Urbana, Ill., graduating in 1949.

Chalmers began college at MIT, focusing on chemistry and physics. Moving toward the humanities and social sciences, he finished at Bowdoin College in 1953, graduating Phi Beta Kappa with philosophy high honors.

He met his future wife, Janet Gerard BC'56, SOA'81, in New York City in 1953 while working a summer job in the mailroom at Western Publishing in Rockefeller Center. He caught the eye of Gerard, who was on summer break from Antioch College working in the layout department. As they tell the story, she contrived to spill a bottle of glue to ensure that the handsome mailroom boy would have to clean it up. They were married in 1957.

Chalmers had been in ROTC in college and was obliged to provide two years of service after graduation. As the Korean War was resolved before graduation, he spent two years in the Army in Bordeaux, overseeing trucking. Upon completion of his service, Chalmers and his wife moved to New Haven, where he completed a Ph.D. in 1962 in political science at Yale. His first teaching positions were at Swarthmore College and Douglass College, Rutgers (Newark, N.J.).

In 1967, Chalmers was hired by Columbia's Department of Political Science; he was quickly drafted to join a group of administrators and faculty that had been appointed to communicate with the student protestors occupying Low Library. After that tumultuous beginning, he spent the next 52 years at Columbia, teaching and writing in the field of comparative politics. He was department chair, dean of SIPA and interim director of the Institute of Latin American Studies.

Chalmers's success as an administrator and teacher could be attributed to his intellectual concern for underrecognized participants in the democratic political process. He was attentive to the workings of power within Columbia's academic hierarchy, and was an advocate for women in the University, especially regarding hiring, promotion and tenure. As a teacher, his dedication, patience and respect made him a favorite among students.

In 2005 Chalmers officially retired, though he continued to be active as an emeritus professor for 14 years. He was executive director of the Society of Senior Scholars, a special assistant to the provost for faculty retirement and a president of Emeritus Professors in Columbia (EPIC), which was reinvigorated under his leadership.

One of Chalmers's great joys was teaching undergraduates; he started teaching Contemporary Civilization in 1984. He loved the seminar's discussion-based format and encouraging students to debate the larger ethical and political questions.

He continued teaching CC and contributed to the evolution of its syllabus until he left Columbia in 2019.

Everyone who knew Chalmers describes him as calm, thoughtful, intelligent and sweet. He was unfailingly interested in all intellectual and artistic endeavors, and brought his quiet and attentive approach to loved ones and acquaintances alike.

In 2019, Columbia awarded Chalmers an honorary Doctorate of Letters. President Lee C. Bollinger's remarks focused on his teaching and his leadership as director of the Institute of Latin American Studies, during which, Bollinger said, the institute "blossomed."

"As a mentor to generations of budding scholars and public servants, you offered guidance without ego or orthodoxy, creating networks of Latin American experts across disciplines and schools. In so doing, over the span of your illustrious career, you transformed the field," Bollinger said.

Chalmers is survived by his wife of 65 years, Janet; children, Jessica BC'84 and Joshua '86; granddaughter, Lola; sister Tiela; and many nieces, nephews and cousins. He was predeceased by his sisters Jean and Meg.

EPIC is establishing a lecture series for graduate students in Chalmers's honor, The Douglas Chalmers Research Presentation Award, with the inaugural lecture set for Fall 2022. A memorial, as well as a fund in his name, are being planned. Details will be announced on douglaschalmersmemorial.net.

—Joshua Chalmers '86

Did*You*Know?

The College's Deans Have Served for 126 years

While Columbia was founded in 1754, the role of Dean of Columbia College has only existed since 1896. That year, President Seth Low CC 1870 officially designated the University as "Columbia University in the City of New York" and announced that, going forward, the undergraduate school would be known as Columbia College. Under this new designation, John Howard Van Amringe CC 1860, who had succeeded Henry Drisler as dean of the School of the Arts in 1884, became the College's first dean. He stayed in the job until 1910; 16 more deans have followed since Van Amringe led the way.



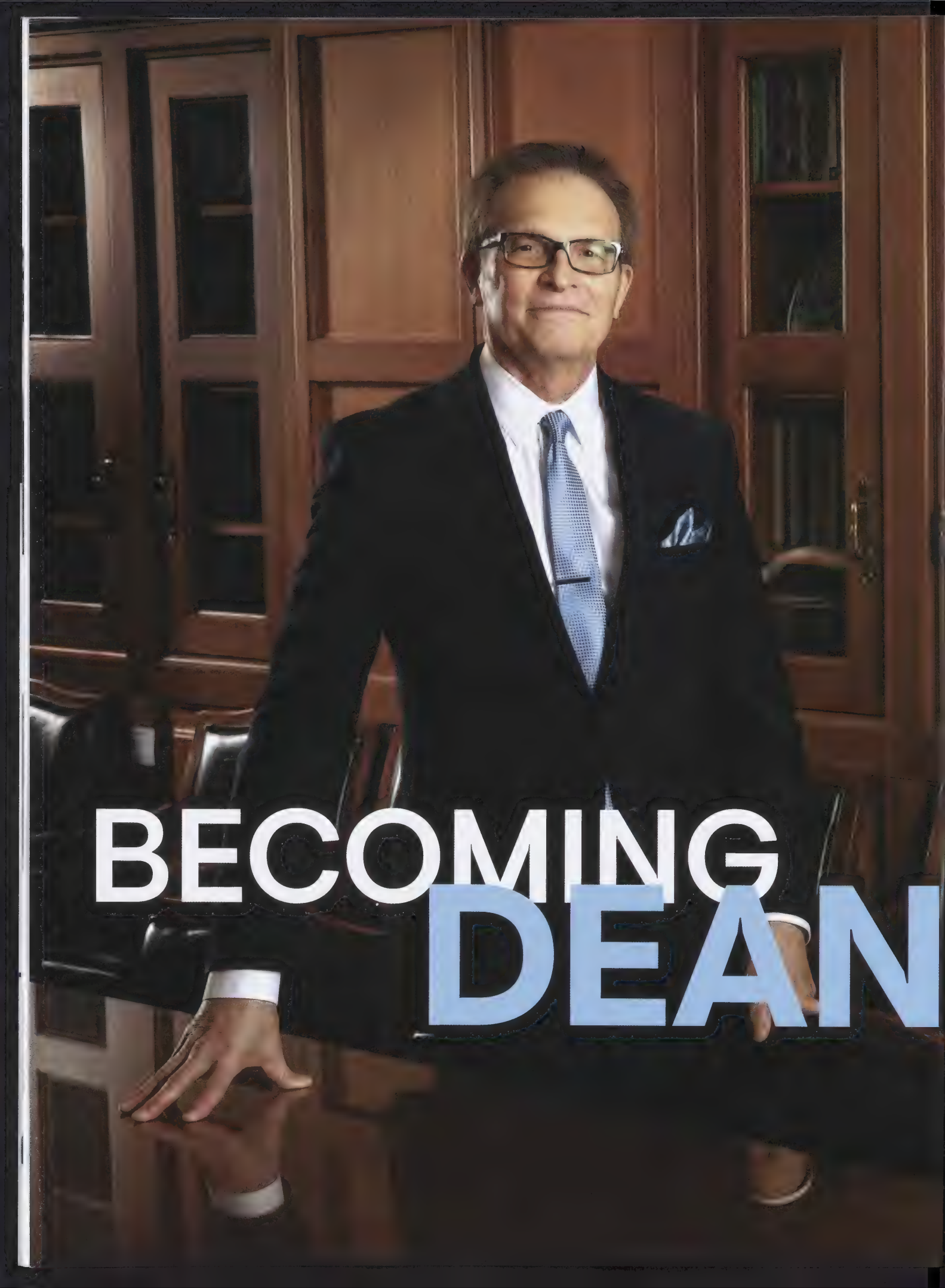
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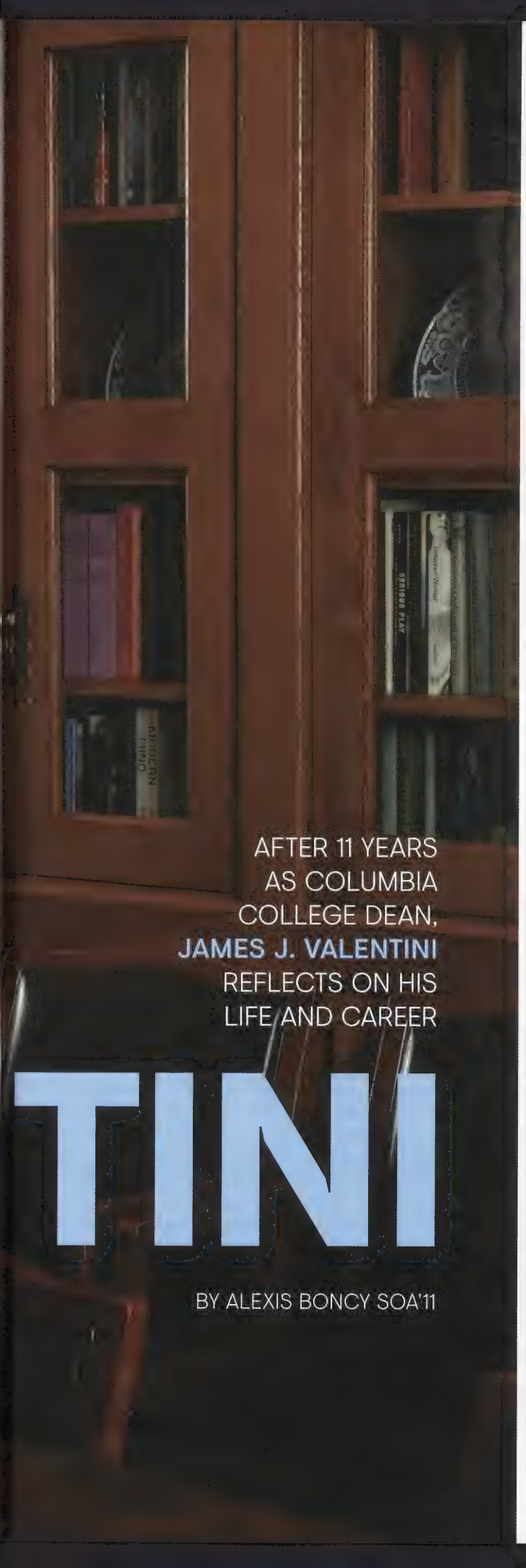
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BECOMING
DEAN



AFTER 11 YEARS AS COLUMBIA COLLEGE DEAN, **JAMES J. VALENTINI** REFLECTS ON HIS LIFE AND CAREER

TINI

BY ALEXIS BONCY SOA'11

On a Monday night in early April, under the dome of Low Library, Columbia College students gathered in their semi-formal best to celebrate their outgoing dean, James J. Valentini. The vibe was decidedly student-event-meets-going-away-party: free food and drinks (including specialty mocktails like the "Deantini Martini"); swag in the form of themed T-shirts (one bore the chemical symbol for coffee); and a banner and notecards for writing send-offs. "Thank you for responding to my email on Christmas morning after my backpack had been stolen," read one. "I transferred to CC from SEAS bc of you!" said another. And a third: "Thank you for making each and every one of us feel special."

The event had been planned mostly in secrecy, a feat considering Valentini doesn't love surprises. But there he was at the appointed hour, in his customary blue dress sneakers and with his pocket square just so, causing a traffic jam as students rushed to say hello and pose with him for pictures. The program itself included several sets of remarks and, the most-secret centerpiece, a special performance by the Varsity Show. True to form, the ensemble spun the dean's origin story into original song — "From Appalachia/Comin' at cha!" — and served up a skit that imagined the last Dine with Deantini lunch. Ample parody was made of Valentini's most frequent phrases ("the greatest college in the greatest university in the greatest city in the greatest state in the greatest country … "). Near the finale, one of the students posed a question to the play's dean that the actual dean has been getting a lot: "What do you think your legacy will be?"

Valentini has in fact considered this question at length. His answer, however, sidesteps any attempt at prediction. A week earlier, in his office in Hamilton Hall, he'd explained his position to this reporter, who was also very interested in the topic. "I like to quote Pericles here, from Thucydides's

PHOTOGRAPHS BY JÖRG MEYER

History of the Peloponnesian War. Really, I'm paraphrasing. But he said, 'Your legacy is not written in stone monuments; it's written in the fabric of the lives that you have touched.'

"My legacy already exists in the many current students, alumni, parents and faculty members whom I've had a connection with. I don't know what that legacy is. In many regards, it won't be evident, and I won't see it because it'll happen long after I'm gone. But it's in their lives, and that's immutable."

VALENTINI STEPS DOWN on June 30 after more than a decade as dean of the College and vice president for undergraduate education. He is among the longest-serving College deans, having been appointed on an interim basis in September 2011 before becoming "the real dean" (as he says) the following June. Though he has agreed to this exit interview, he mentions repeatedly that the conversation makes him uncomfortable. It's not that Valentini is entirely reluctant to talk about himself or to reflect on his time as dean. But he doesn't like the imbalance of the setup — he wants to ask questions, too. By all accounts, this is one of Valentini's most defining qualities: his interest in *other* people. He wants to know where they come from and what they like to do, what they think and why they think what they think. He is always looking to learn. "And you never learn anything by talking."

He is also quick to deflect any notion that his deanship should be viewed through the lens of individual accomplishment. "I didn't do anything on my own — not a single thing," Valentini says. "To me, the greatest satisfaction is to work on something with other people and succeed as a group."

Still, Valentini's vision has transformed the College in ways too numerous to count; any short list would include his leadership in developing a comprehensive strategic plan — "the owner's manual for Columbia College," as he puts it — and conceiving and launching Core to Commencement, the first fundraising campaign dedicated exclusively to the College (in June, the campaign reached its $750 million goal). He recognized the need to connect the Core Curriculum more strongly to today's world, paving the way for a comprehensive reform of the Art Humanities syllabus and the creation of the Eric H. Holder Jr. Initiative for Civil and Political Rights. And he shifted the paradigm for alumni by painting the College as a unified and lifelong community — one where supporting and being a role model to students was as much a point of pride as their Columbia degree.

On campus, Valentini remade the culture twice over: He elevated student well-being to become a top priority, subsequently mobilizing the College community and many parts of the University to support student mental health through the Live Well | Learn Well campaign. And he introduced a new perspective on the College experience, deemphasizing academic success as the end-all, be-all — no small feat in the Ivy League. But Valentini was determined to break students' penchant for racking up credits and multiple majors. ("No one hires a transcript," he says.) His signature initiative, My Columbia College Journey, instead encourages undergraduates to take a holistic view by placing greater emphasis on personal growth and development. The essential underlying message: There's more than one road to finding fulfillment in life.

But for all of these and other concrete successes, Valentini is perhaps most closely associated with something far more conceptual — "Beginner's Mind." Indeed, it's hard to imagine anyone who has spent time in the dean's presence not being able to finish this sentence from the Zen monk and teacher Shunryu Suzuki: "In the beginner's mind there are many possibilities; in the expert's mind there are few." Valentini has introduced the principle of approaching the world as if seeing everything for the first time at every Convocation and Class Day since 2012. He also shares the philosophy in the first class of his science courses, illustrating his point with two photographs: one of a lit candle and one of a luminescent blue ball. It turns out the ball is also a candle, albeit one burning on the space station. "And I say to them, 'Beginner's Mind means to look at the candle on the left that you know with the same curiosity that you look at the candle on the right.'"

Valentini says that Beginner's Mind has been an integral part of his life for close to 30 years. "It basically develops empathy because it forces you to think about other people or situations and not make snap judgments," he says. "And it's a really hard thing to do — a



Teaching his science course on energy and energy conservation.



Life in Lafferty (clockwise from left): Valentini with his step-grandfather and maternal grandmother, Joseph and Christina Orell, outside their home in 1957; with his youngest brother, Thomas (far left), and parents, Dorothy and Julio, in 1964; his high school senior snapshot.

PHOTOS COURTESY JAMES J. VALENTINI

really hard thing. I still have to practice. But I think it may be the single most important thing in determining success in life."

VALENTINI GREW UP in Lafferty, Ohio, a tiny town not far from the West Virginia border. "If you say it's part of Appalachia, which it is, that's more evocative of what it was like," he says. Lafferty had two stop signs, no traffic lights and a population around 200; the majority were first- or second-generation Italian Americans. "They could trace their ancestry back to one small area of northern Italy, like to three towns," Valentini says. "Everybody knew everybody else. I used to joke that my mother knew what I had done before I had done it."

That part of Ohio is coal country. The industry was the base of Lafferty's economy — originally deep mines, which gradually gave way to strip mines; there was one a few hundred feet behind the Valentini home. "All day long and certainly at night, I could hear the clanging of the dragline, which is a kind of excavator that removes the earth to expose the coal. It has lights on it, so at night I used to look out my bedroom window and I could see this huge rig and hear the clanging."

Both of Valentini's grandfathers were killed in mining accidents, and his step-grandfather owned a small mine. Valentini's father, Julio, however, traveled a different path. He dropped out of high school in the 10th grade and, as a younger man, ran a combination candy store and pool hall; after marrying, he became a radio operator for the highway department. Valentini's mother, Dorothy, was a bookkeeper before transitioning to work in the home. Valentini was the oldest of three boys, with two years between him and his middle brother, and six between him and the youngest.

"The town was very poor, with limited opportunities," Valentini says. "Many men died or were injured in coal mines. And the ones who didn't die ended up with black lung. There was a strong sense in my family, particularly by my mother, of the importance of finding another way. Because this was a dangerous way of life. The whole thing was, the next generation has to find something better. And school was really important in that."

"THERE WAS A STRONG SENSE IN MY FAMILY OF FINDING ANOTHER WAY. ... AND SCHOOL WAS REALLY IMPORTANT IN THAT."

For Valentini, that meant first his local elementary school, a three-room building with no indoor plumbing, run by nuns; then later, a regional Catholic school. Both were rigorous, with high expectations for academic work and an insistence on discipline. His high school science teacher was encouraging, and particularly influential. "I had a fundamental interest in how the world works, and that got translated into chemistry, which was more interesting to me than biology or physics," he says. His graduating class had 24 students.

Around age 10, Valentini started earning money by mowing lawns and washing cars. At 14, he began working in the local general store. "My first regular job paid 75 cents an hour," he recalls. He was paid in cash but never spent any of it. "I would take the money and

just jam it into my jeans, and I would come home and I'd iron the money flat — perfectly flat — and I'd organize all the bills. Then when I had enough, I'd go to the bank and buy a U.S. savings bond. That was how I paid for college."

The general store is also where he learned how to talk to other people. Valentini was painfully shy. ("People don't believe me, but I am fundamentally an introvert," he says.) He also spent summers helping his widowed grandmother. "She had a big house, 14 rooms, and an old barn on two acres of property — we'd do yard work, maintenance, painting, whatever," he says. "She could work all day long. That's all she ever did in life. She taught me — without saying so — that hard work was its own reward." In the evenings, she'd make dinner while Valentini read novels borrowed from the local bookmobile. "It came around every other week or so, a big truck with books in the back … *Moby Dick,* Sinclair Lewis, *The Scarlet Letter,* Nathaniel Hawthorne — lots of American literature."

"PEOPLE DON'T BELIEVE ME, BUT I AM FUNDAMENTALLY AN INTROVERT."

Then, as now, he was fascinated with cars. As early as age 8, Valentini would sit on the floor at the supermarket and read automotive magazines off the rack while his mother shopped. Once he was tall enough for his feet to reach the pedals, he would drive his grandparents' old car around the yard. "Around and around, until my mother would yell, 'You're wearing out the grass!'" he recalls with a laugh.

Valentini was the first in his family to go to college, attending on a mix of scholarships, loans and the money he'd saved. He chose the University of Pittsburgh because he wanted to be in "a real city, a place where I could have some anonymity." Even so, he was terrified. "I had never slept anywhere other than my grandmother's house or our house. I had never used a public restroom, never been on a bus, a train, a taxi, anything. And that was a time when you didn't have a lot of orientation programs — people were admitted and it was, 'OK, do the best you can.'"

For the first month, whenever he visited the library, he sat in the same seat near the entrance. "It wasn't the place for studying — it had a stool without a back, and what was then called the *Reader's Guide to Periodic Literature,* which is an ancient thing that predates electronic databases. But I didn't know what it was for. I'd never been in a real library, certainly not in a place this big. I didn't know how you were supposed to behave."

Doing well on his midterms helped ease his discomfort, and by the end of the first semester, he realized he would be OK. "I was still awkward and out of place," he adds. "There were so many kids who were from cities who had done things and seen things that I had no knowledge of. But I wasn't terrified anymore."

Valentini had roommates the first few years and lived in singles afterward. At one point, he was the only person on a floor of football players, "surrounded by guys who weighed twice what I weighed. They were just leading a whole different life than I was leading." He laughs. "I was kind of like a little mascot to them." Valentini recalls that he gained confidence as he succeeded academically. "I found a circle of people — not a very big one — but people with whom I had something in common, and I felt I could navigate and I wouldn't say the wrong thing." He considered majoring in philosophy, but was dissuaded after taking a course on Kant. "I couldn't understand it at all, and I figured I had no prospects there, so I'd stick with chemistry. I think it was probably a good choice."



Many of the model cars in Valentini's office were gifts from students and alumni.

INSIDE VALENTINI'S OFFICE in March, a flattened moving carton resting against one wall offers the only visible evidence that he'll be leaving this space in three months. Above it hangs a piece of art — a curving, looped wood shape that turns out to be the outline of the racetrack at Monte Carlo (only two visitors have ever identified it). Nearby, a glass cabinet displays a shelf of Buddhas and many model cars; the latter are largely gifts from alumni and students. Valentini pulls out a small Ferrari. Asked what draws him to cars, he hesitates. "Going fast is one of the things I really like in life," he says finally. "I rode my bicycle as fast as I could, pedaled full speed down a hill without a helmet. When I lived in New Mexico I learned to ski, and I wanted to go as fast as possible down the hill. Cars are about speed, skiing is about speed, bicycles are about speed.

"Cars are also about freedom," he adds thoughtfully. "And when you're trapped in a little town, a car represents freedom in a way."



Chatting outside Hamilton with Sina Ahdoot '23.

Valentini speaks openly about his modest background, and often shares pieces of his biography in conversation. He says that Admissions even has a special letter that talks about his early life, sent to admitted students from rural areas and students who are first generation. Considering this, he again references empathy. "It's extremely valuable as dean to have had these experiences, to have grown up in a small backwater town, to have had my college experience. It helps you understand current students, some of whom approach college in a similar way. I'm really grateful for it. It gives you such a perspective on life."

That said, Valentini sometimes worries that students will view him and his story as being somehow exceptional. "And if it's exceptional, then it's not accessible." He pauses before adding: "There's nothing remarkable about me. I didn't set out to be dean. I just did one thing after another, and it led to this; it could have led to something else. There's serendipity in this, too."

Some of that serendipity occurred in 1990, when Columbia chemistry professor Ronald Breslow gave a seminar at UC Irvine while Valentini was in his sixth year as a professor there. (Previously, he had been a member of the research staff at Los Alamos National Laboratory.) "Because Ronald was talking to everyone in the department, he talked to me," Valentini says. "The next day, I got a call from Columbia saying, how'd you like to come here?" Another cosmic turn came in 1994, when he met Teodolinda Barolini at the first session of the newly elected Executive Committee of Columbia's Arts and Sciences faculty. Valentini was making notes to help him remember who was who; when Barolini introduced herself, he wrote, "she's the cute one." They married in 2001. (Both have sons from prior marriages; Valentini's are Evan and Colin GS'17, and Barolini's is William.)

In his 32-year career at Columbia, Valentini has been chair of the chemistry department, director of the chemistry department's Undergraduate Studies Program and sat on an array of College and University committees. He was instrumental in creating the Science Research Fellows program, a four-year designation for Columbia's most promising science students.

Valentini recounts the moment he became interim dean in 2011: "They asked me at 1:00 on a Friday. I said OK, and they made the announcement at 4:00. I had no anticipation of doing it any longer than needed." He wryly recalls the BWOG headline upon his formal appointment in June 2012, "Deantini Is Now CC Dean Forever." "It wasn't forever," he says, "but it was a pretty long time."

Looking back on his tenure, the dean says his biggest takeaway is that people are the College's most vital resource. "I already knew the importance of valuing people, but the *scope* of what we do is enormous. The role of the College in the lives of students and faculty has far more dimensions than what I anticipated.

"The success of a collection of people is not easy," he adds. "The secret is to surround yourself with people who are smarter than you, and to listen to them. I ask questions, and I expect people to be able to explain to me why they think something. Sometimes I'll disagree and then we'll talk about it. But everyone is willing to work together, and that's why we're successful."

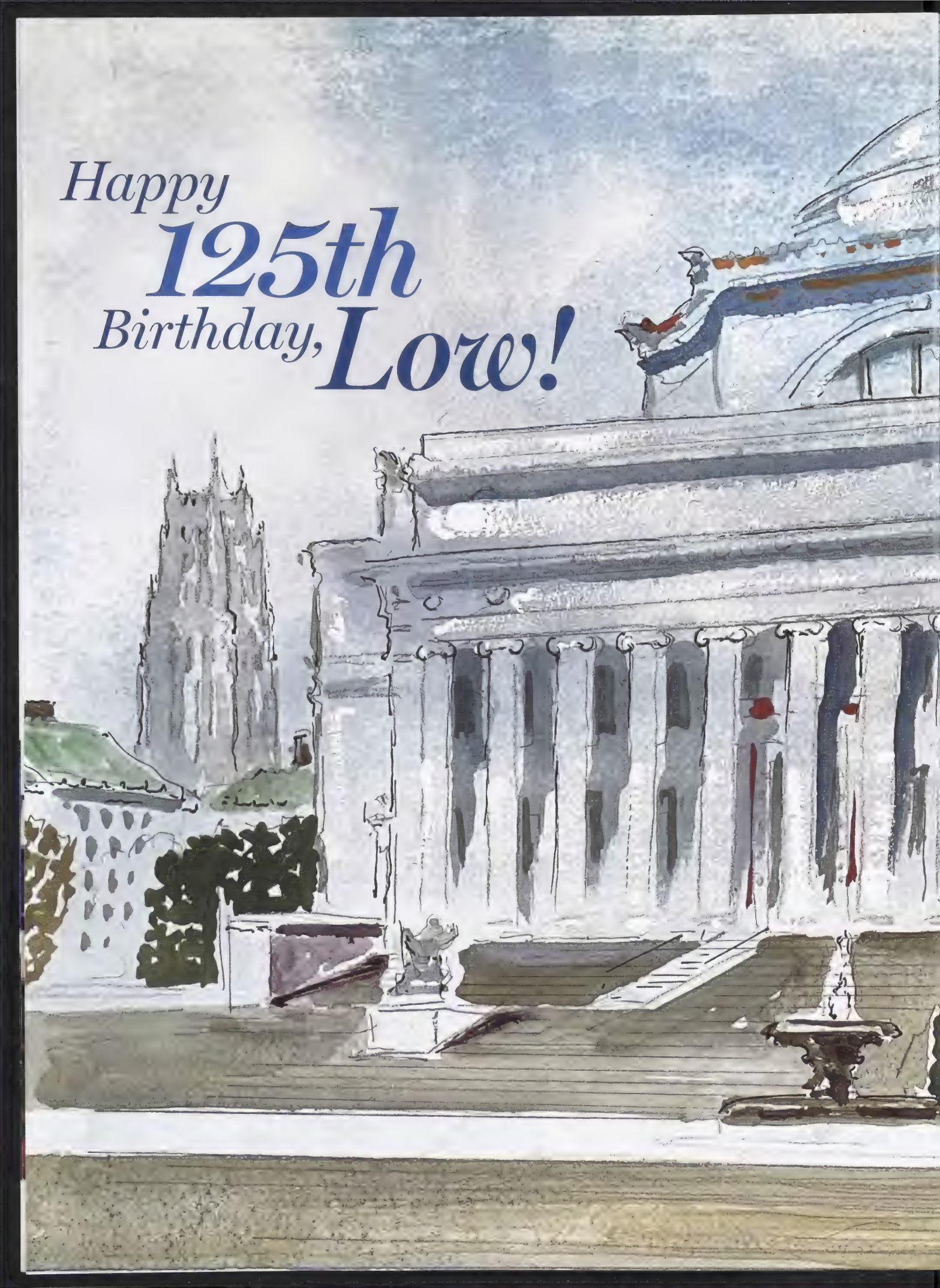
Despite Valentini's discomfort on the question of legacy, he allows that there are some things that he would like to see continue: the strategic plan, Beginner's Mind, My Columbia College Journey, Live Well | Learn Well … and Pantone 292. "The last seems almost like a throwaway," he says, "but it's a visual symbol of our connection to one another. All you have to do is look up at the sky, and that's Columbia College blue."

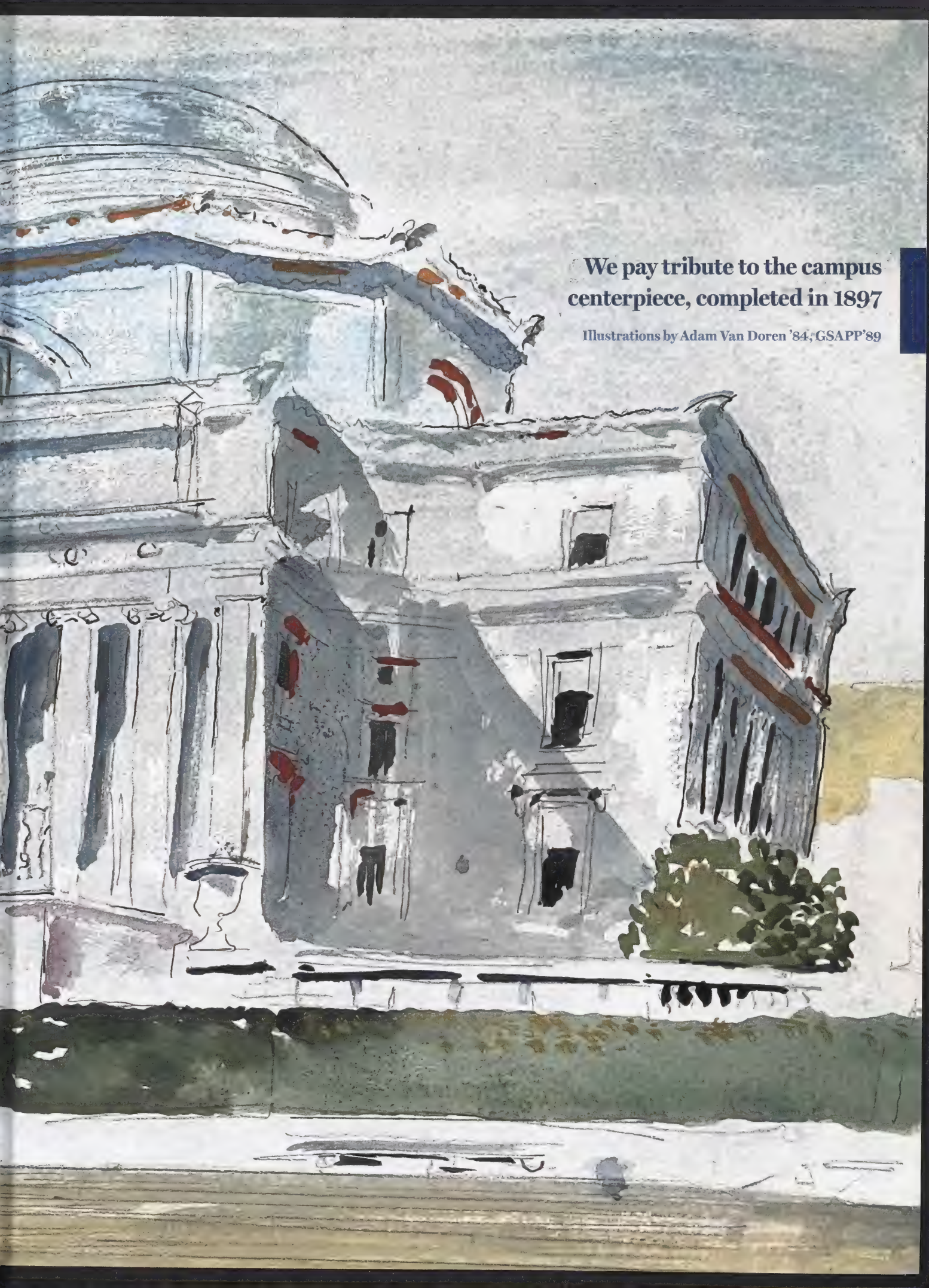
Asked what he'll miss about being dean, the answer is immediate: "The interaction with so many different people, every day. I am really going to miss that." He repeats the last sentence, quietly. "That brings me to tears, actually." He tells a story about a CC'20 alumna who approached him recently at an event in Los Angeles, to share how much it meant to her that he'd taken 10 minutes to chat on the Low Steps one afternoon. "There are so many episodes like that," he says. "You can change a student's life here by one small thing.

"I consider myself tremendously fortunate," Valentini adds. "The most important good fortune is to have a strong family and good friends, but not far behind that is the good fortune to be able to do something in life, working with people whom you respect and who share a common sense of purpose with you. And you work together on something that is undeniably, unequivocally really important. Being dean is one of those things."

A LEADER'S LEGACY

Read more about how Valentini left his mark on the College, along with reflections from alumni, faculty and staff: valentini.college.columbia.edu.


Happy
125th
Birthday, Low!



We pay tribute to the campus centerpiece, completed in 1897

Illustrations by Adam Van Doren '84, GSAPP'89

Low Memorial Library, the first major building to be erected on the Morningside Heights campus, is having a big birthday this year. To celebrate, we raided the Columbia University Archives, requested insights from alumni architects and historians, and recalled memories from years of Steps fans. *We love you, Low!*

— Jill C. Shomer



COURTESY COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

Low Memorial Library, circa 1897.

In the Beginning

Construction on Low Library began in 1895; it was to be the visual and academic heart of the new Morningside Heights campus, according to the plans created by renowned American architectural firm McKim, Mead & White. President Seth Low CC 1870 provided the cash (a million dollars, to be exact, in memory of his father, Abiel Abbot Low) and Charles McKim put forth the design, a neoclassical vision that was a hat tip to both Thomas Jefferson's rotunda at the University of Virginia, completed 60 years earlier, and Hadrian's second-century Pantheon in Rome.

An 1897 pamphlet summarizes Columbia's lofty aims: "[It] is not so much a storehouse for books as it is a laboratory for those who are to use books. Quite as much thought has been given to the reader as well as the book."

The Rotunda was conceived as the principal reading room, modeled after the main reading room of London's British Museum. The architects designed a circle of tiered desks fitted with bronze reading lamps and bookcases that held 12,000 volumes. Stacks on the floors beneath the reading room housed an additional 150,000 volumes, while another 16,000 were shelved in the galleries above. At full capacity the library was expected to accommodate 1.9 million books.

Low would also be home to campus administrators: Seth Low held public office hours in the President's Room — Room 213 — but worked in Room 307. (In 1948, Dwight D. Eisenhower became the first University president to occupy the current suite of offices on the second floor.) The Trustees, meanwhile, have always convened in Room 212.

The building was renamed the "Seth Low Memorial Library" by President Nicholas Murray Butler CC 1882 in 1935, and was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1987.

When Columbia Hung the Moon

The best definition of a university is, to my mind, a city from which the universe can be surveyed.

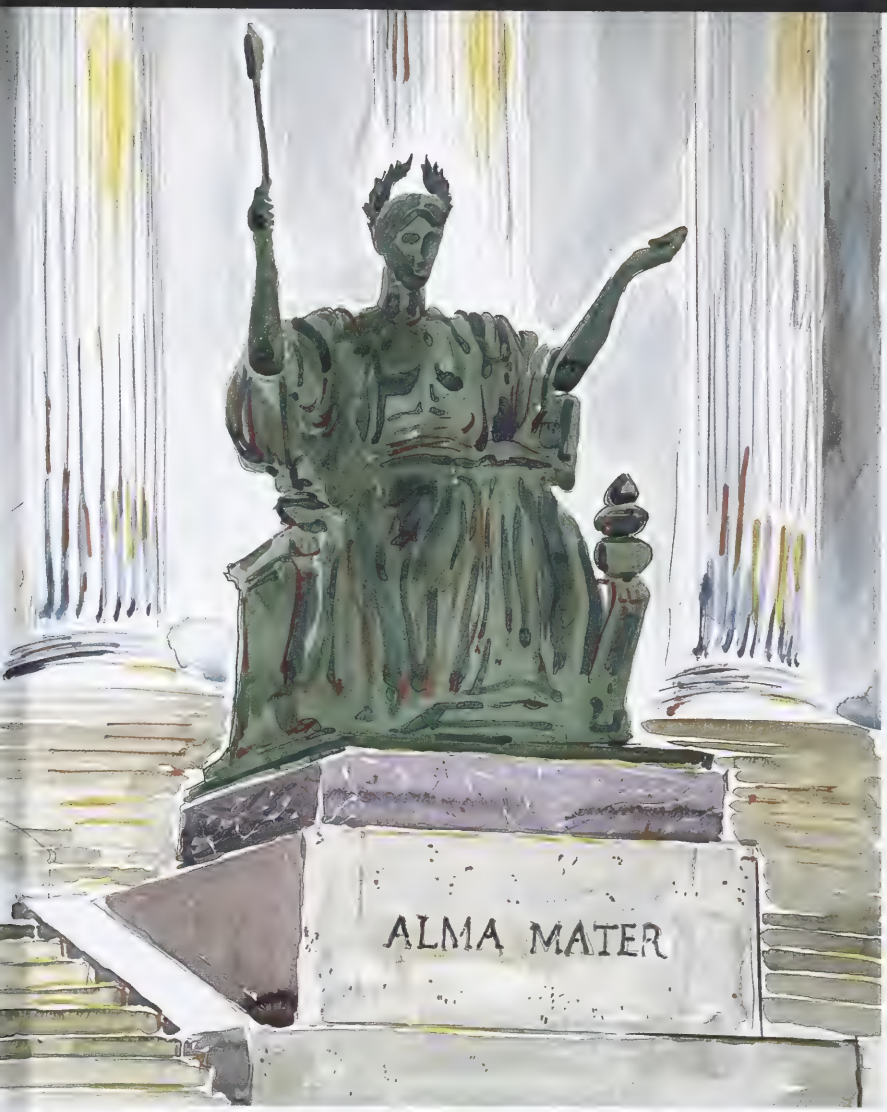
Aesthetically ancient but technologically advanced, Low Library rose to this challenge. Its walls are several feet thick, thicker than was necessary in an 1890s America that had moved on from heavy stone construction to steel-frame skeletal structures for skyscrapers and railroad stations. Buried within hundreds of tons of Milford granite, Indiana limestone and the architecture of antiquity were the latest technologies: electricity, steam heating, Corliss steam engines and internal plumbing at a time when hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers still used outhouses.

The great library aimed to collapse the universe into the size of a room. From the dome's center was suspended a seven-foot-diameter white ball, which *Scientific American* described in 1898 as "Columbia's artificial moon." So that students could read by moonlight under a canopy of stars, the 500-pound ball was illuminated by spotlights hidden in upstairs galleries, reflecting the "moon" against the painted dark dome to resemble the night sky. (With no other point of reference except candles, *Scientific American* calculated the glow of Columbia's moon as equivalent in power to 3,972 candles.)

But light technology had yet to be perfected, and the lightbulbs' carbon filaments could only burn for two and a half hours before the moon went dark. As a result, Columbia needed to replace the filaments daily and could only illuminate the universe from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

The moon came down to Earth in January 1965. As part of an extensive renovation, a new light and sound system was installed in Low and the lunar cycles were left to the real heavens above.

— Myles Zhang '19
Ph.D. candidate in architectural history, University of Michigan



All About *Alma*

When Charles McKim designed Low's front steps (see "Love for Low Steps"), he included an empty granite pedestal in the middle on which a statue might sit. In 1900, Harriette Goelet, the widow of prominent businessman Robert Goelet CC 1860, offered the Trustees up to $25,000 to install a bronze statue representing "Alma Mater" in memory of her husband, who had died the year before.

McKim recommended sculptor Daniel Chester French for the commission (the artist was well known at the time, and would go on to design the Pulitzer Prize and the statue of Abraham Lincoln inside the Lincoln Memorial, among other monuments). French aimed to create "a figure that should be gracious in the impression that it should make, with an attitude of welcome to the youths who should choose Columbia as their college." Early drafts featured *Alma* with her hands in her lap; after a round of critique, French changed her arms to be outstretched and holding a scepter. His final design was approved by the Trustees on March 4, 1901; the total cost was $20,000.

Alma Mater was installed in 1903. McKim was said to be delighted; he described *Alma* as "dignified, classic and stately … exhibiting as much perception of the spirit and freedom of the Greek as any modern can."

A Major Dome, Oh!

Low's formidable topper is the largest structure of its kind in the United States, and is built entirely of limestone-covered bricks and mortar. It stands 135 feet high and 100 feet wide, formed from steps that are four feet thick at the base and taper to a slim nine inches at the crown. A second dome, 70 feet wide and made of plaster and iron, is nestled inside it; arching 105 feet above the Rotunda's floor, it was painted dark blue to look like the night sky (see "When Columbia Hung the Moon"). Stairs between the inner and outer domes lead to the roof; there were once designated hours to access the top — aviatrix Amelia Earhart famously enjoyed the air up there in 1920 — but the dome is no longer open to visitors.



COURTESY COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

The dome under construction in June 1897.

Happy 125th Birthday, ***Low!***



COURTESY SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, SCHAFFER LIBRARY, UNION COLLEGE

Nott Memorial library reading room, 1936.

Where'd the Library Furniture Go?

Alas, the architects' ambitions for a central reading room didn't take, and in the early 1930s, thousands of books were carted across campus to the new South Hall, which was eventually renamed Butler Library. The Rotunda became a ceremony and event space (as it remains today), and the beautiful custom-designed McKim, Mead & White tables and bookshelves ended up in Low's basement.

Enter Dixon Ryan Fox CC 1911, GSAS 1917, a well-liked American history professor at the College. It was thought he would succeed Butler as University president, but in 1934, with Butler seemingly having no plans to retire, Fox left Columbia to become president of Union College in Schenectady. He returned to campus in 1935 to receive an honorary degree at Commencement; while visiting the Low ceremonial space, Fox found the old reading room furniture.

Union College happened to have its own iconic round building, Nott Memorial, and Fox asked Butler if he could have the McKim, Mead & White pieces for its library. With the Trustees's consent, they were loaned to Union; the Low Rotunda furniture remained in Nott until the library was relocated in 1963.

Love for Low Steps

Even before we started gathering responses for our 2021 online feature "Your Favorite Campus Places" (bit.ly/37XWHms), we *knew* the Steps would be number 1. And it was, by a landslide — they're just that special to you. Here are a few of the memories we've heard through the years:

I always look to sitting on the Low Steps as a quintessential example of carefree youth and fun.

— Dr. Diane Hilal-Campo '87

I know it's cliché, but there was nothing like experiencing the Riot of Spring on the Low Steps. Glorious.

— Lawrence Trilling '88

Every spring, after a long cold winter, all these pale, eager students would venture out of hibernation, gathering on the Steps in T-shirts, shorts and sundresses, and hang out together until the sun went down. It felt like the ideal college experience.

— Germaine Choe '95

It was the jumping-off point for so many idyllic afternoons. It became increasingly difficult in the spring to go to your classes on that side of campus because every time you passed by, groups of friends would shout at you to come hang out.

— Cassius Michael Kim '02

Low Steps is the best place on campus to hang out, people watch, eat, talk, read and just *be*.

— La Toya Tavernier '05

LOW ON THE SILVER SCREEN

The building has played a role in these films:

Simon (1980)

Ghostbusters (1984)

Spider-Man (2002)
Spider-Man 2 (2004)
Spider-Man 3 (2007)

Hitch (2005)

The Nanny Diaries (2007)

The Post (2017; acting as the U.S. Supreme Court)

Expert Testimony

We asked alumni who in various ways have made buildings their business what they think makes Low so special. They weigh in here and on page 20:

There is a masterly sequence of spaces in the design of Low Library that starts on 116th Street and ends under the dome. It was meant to lead students and scholars from the New York City street, up a series of stairs funneling us progressively into the orbit of Low Library, a cosmic universe of knowledge where we would be conducted through a vestibule — stepping on the way over the signs of the zodiac — to the central desk of the reading room to request books from a desk that was both the center of the campus and in the axis of the heavenly spheres above on the inside surface of the dome.

— Barry Bergdoll '77, GSAS'86
Interim Department of Art History & Archaeology chair (2021–22), and the Meyer Schapiro Professor of Art History



When I first saw Low Library, I found it impressive yet unsettling. After attending high school in France, I found the Morningside Heights campus full of American bravado — overscaled — so unfamiliar to my refined continental eye.

The campus is inherently American: Charles McKim's urban ode to Thomas Jefferson's bucolic University of Virginia. The library, at the center point of the campus, is conceived on a brash 19th-century scale. The soft pink brick of Jefferson's rotunda is reinterpreted in Low's massive Indiana limestone walls, fluted ionic colonnade and dome that rivals the Pantheon's. And then there are the anthemion, Vitruvian scrolls, dentils, bead and reel, egg and dart — the goodies of Classical architecture. The building boldly and unapologetically proclaims the importance of knowledge as a higher purpose.

I quickly got over my French reticence.

The recent interior restoration shows us McKim's colorful intention — as though a gem-filled geode has been cracked open. The rich entrance vestibule showcases a marble bust of Pallas Athena, a marble floor beneath the intricate coffered plaster ceiling, supported by gilded-topped Connemara marble columns. Beyond is the voluminous former Reading Room. High above, four giant arched thermal windows send shafts of sunlight angling in. For those missing the sadly destroyed Pennsylvania Station, here is a hint of what that building was like.

Low is a fitting stage for luminaries (like Jacques Cousteau, whom I memorably heard speak there in 1978), modern thinkers in the tradition of Plato and his marble colleagues looking down from their perches on the parapet above.

— Tom Kligerman '79
Architect, author and partner, Ike Kligerman Barkley

I have long admired Low Library as an architectural masterpiece, not only for the building itself, but also for how it embraces its site. Low seamlessly integrates Columbia's upper and lower campus into one uniform plan, forming the heart of the University. Its inviting main steps, so beloved by generations of students, cascade toward College Walk like a stone waterfall. It is Classical city planning at its best (no surprise to students of the Core Curriculum).

I wonder, however, how many Columbia students have ever set foot inside Low's interior, other than for a sneak peek? Now that the Business School is moving uptown, maybe some of Low's offices could relocate to Uris, thereby allowing Low to provide more student-friendly spaces for classrooms, club offices, practice rooms and student publications. Just a thought — but I think McKim would approve.

— Adam Van Doren '84, GSAPP'89
Author, artist and filmmaker

To me, the most significant feature of Low Library is the way the building generously creates a backdrop for the most amazing public space at the heart of the campus. Perhaps it is the rising elevation from the plaza to the top of the Steps, which seems to place the activities and lives of Columbians on a pedestal for all to see. As a student, I had only been in the actual building a handful of times, but there was not a day that went by when I did not walk, sit, eat or drink on the Steps a few times.

— Jenny Wu '97
Architect, designer and partner, Olyer Wu Collaborative

The Fluency Influencer

By Anne-Ryan Sirju JRN'09

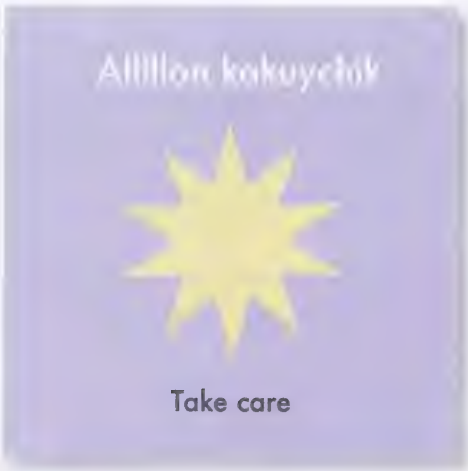
Shana Inofuentes '00 harnesses the power of social media for Indigenous language preservation

Illustrations by Jennifer Albarracin Moya

Cute bodega cats. Gravity-defying desserts. Thousands of #photooftheday-tagged sunsets. A quick scroll through Instagram brings up almost anything. But Indigenous languages? For Shana Inofuentes '00, director of The Quechua Project and head of its communications strategy, the photo-based app is the perfect medium to showcase something unique: "We get so many messages from youth in our community saying, 'Why didn't someone think of this before? I can't believe I'm seeing and hearing Quechua on social media!'"

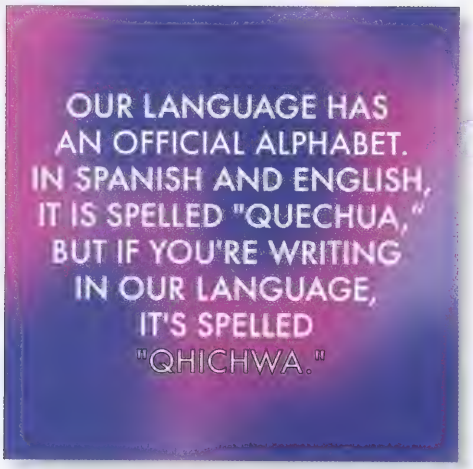
The Quechua people are an Indigenous community from the Andean region of South America, which stretches from Peru through Bolivia and into Chile. Inofuentes is on a mission to keep Quechua — Bolivia's second-most common language, with approximately 2.5 million speakers — vibrant and growing among the Bolivian diaspora. To that end she co-founded The Quechua Project, which places Indigenous pride at the forefront of social media with regular posts and stories that share Quechua language and culture with its eager followers.

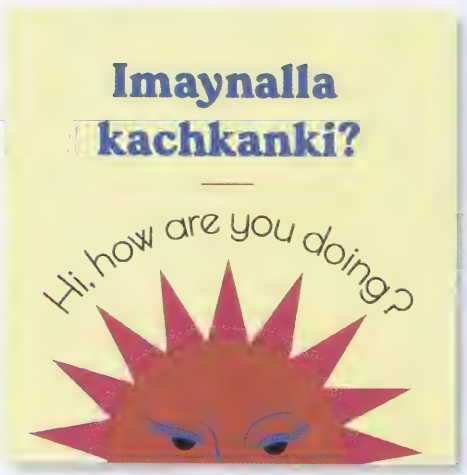
Why Instagram? "I think it's very important not to place us in the past," Inofuentes says. "I can't tell you how many times I read about Indigenous people in the past tense, like, 'Our people *used* to, or we *used* to.' It's the idea that we're relegated to vanishing into the

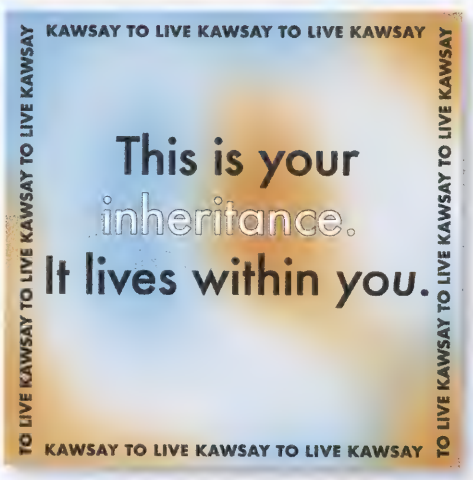

Allillon kakuychik
Take care


QHICHWA KANI. QHICHWA KANI. QHICHWA KANI.
WHOLLY
UNABASHEDLY
FIERCELY
QHICHWA
THE QUECHUA PROJECT


I CAN BE WHOEVER I WANT TO BE AND STILL BE QHICHWA.
I CAN BE WHOEVER I WANT TO BE AND STILL BE QHICHWA.
I CAN BE WHOEVER I WANT TO BE AND STILL BE QHICHWA.
I CAN BE WHOEVER I WANT TO BE AND STILL BE QHICHWA.


OUR LANGUAGE HAS AN OFFICIAL ALPHABET. IN SPANISH AND ENGLISH, IT IS SPELLED "QUECHUA," BUT IF YOU'RE WRITING IN OUR LANGUAGE, IT'S SPELLED "QHICHWA."


Imaynalla kachkanki?
Hi, how are you doing?


KAWSAY TO LIVE KAWSAY TO LIVE KAWSAY
This is your
inheritance.
It lives within you.
KAWSAY TO LIVE KAWSAY TO LIVE KAWSAY
TO LIVE KAWSAY TO LIVE KAWSAY TO LIVE KAWSAY
TO LIVE KAWSAY TO LIVE KAWSAY TO LIVE KAWSAY


QUECHUA BEAUTIFUL. QUECHUA BEAUTIFUL. QUECHUA BEAUTIFUL. QUECHUA BEAUTIFUL.
QUECHUA STRONG. QUECHUA STRONG. QUECHUA STRONG. QUECHUA STRONG.
QUECHUA PROUD. QUECHUA PROUD.


Munakuy
munanaykipaq
In order to love, love yourself.


With our family?
With our friends?
Who will carry it on?


Building on our ayni.
Hoy por ti, mañana por mi.




Waway,
you're going to be just fine.

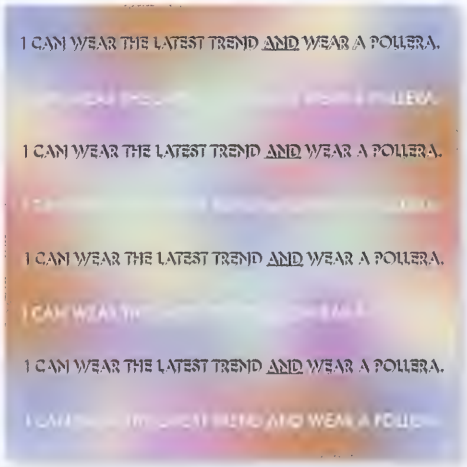
past because we're prehistoric, and not compatible with modernity."

And what's more modern than apps?

"Something we like to say in The Quechua Project is that it's not about going back," she says. "It's about moving forward — without the baggage."

Inofuentes grew up just outside of Washington, D.C., which is home to the United States's largest Bolivian diaspora (approximately 300,000 people of Bolivian descent live in the D.C. metro area). She says that the community is extremely tight knit, with very active *pueblo* organizations (community groups tied to specific regions of Bolivia) keeping people strongly connected to their homeland. The Quechua Project grew out of that community's yearly *carnavales,* a months-long holiday that celebrates the harvest. Each Saturday, a different *pueblo* hosts the others for a day of singing, dancing and food. During that time, Indigenous languages like Quechua are ubiquitous; says Inofuentes, "If you go to a party or festival like that, which happens all spring and part of winter, you're going to hear Quechua — it's pervasive."

But Inofuentes says that Quechua, like many Indigenous languages, is endangered; while older generations speak it among themselves, younger people in the U.S. often end up fluent only in English and Spanish. This puts their Indigenous identity at risk of being erased, forced under a larger "Latin American" identity that doesn't encompass their unique history and experiences.



The Quechua Project was co-founded by four Bolivian-American women from the D.C. area: Inofuentes, María Luz "K'ancha" Coco, Mónica Flores and Jennifer Albarracin Moya. Inofuentes met Coco, the project's Quechua language specialist, during *carnavales* in 2018. But it wasn't until summer 2019 — when the two had an *apthapi* (a meal with a focus on sharing food) with Flores — that they struck upon the idea of using media to revitalize Quechua use in the diaspora. That September, Inofuentes reached out to artist and photographer Albarracin Moya to ask her to contribute her expertise in the visual arts. The foursome decided that Instagram, with its focus on photos and short videos, was the perfect vehicle to showcase the beauty of Quechua — the app's quick, digestible bites are ideal for the younger generation.

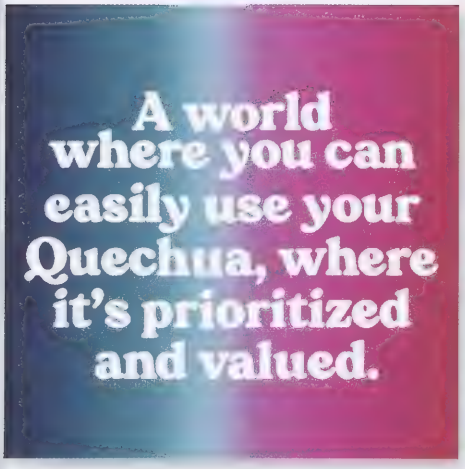
The Quechua Project launched online in September 2020, and quickly began growing followers. Comments on posts are ebullient: "I love this way of learning Quechua!"; "I love this movement."; "I needed to read this. Thank you."

But the eye-catching posts do more than just showcase the Quechua language. Inofuentes elaborates: "In order to create a generation of people from Indigenous heritage like ours, who are going to be empowered to contribute to racial justice and a better world, they need to *feel* empowered." And for Inofuentes, part of this affirmation is to have people see their experiences represented on Instagram — to know that they don't have to hide parts of themselves, either in real life or online, and to see that they can be economically and socially successful while still celebrating their heritage. Adds Coco, "It's impactful to see four young women [from the community] focus on the language, even when Quechua isn't 'necessary' for our lives in the U.S."

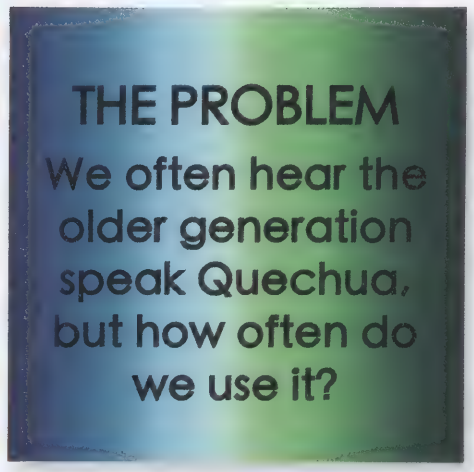
Inofuentes, wearing a Columbia sweatshirt and a traditional *aguayo* wrap, harvests potatoes in the Bolivian Altiplano, with the revered Illampu mountain in the background.



EBER MIRANDA, NACIÓN RAP







So what does a typical Quechua Project Instagram post look like? Some are educational, teaching Quechua phrases like *Kusikuy kay p'unchaypi* ("Be happy today") or *Jamuy mikhurikunki* ("Come eat"); some highlight the diaspora community through videos celebrating *carnavales* events; and others showcase Indigenous pride, like a series on *ch'uñu* — a preserved potato dish — and *ch'uñuchay,* the uniquely Indigenous process of creating the *ch'uñu,* which relies on the harsh Andean altiplano environment (freezing nights, hot days) for the preservation technique. The posts use a mix of English, Spanish and Quechua in order to reach their younger U.S.-based followers, who might not be fluent in Quechua but still identify with the culture or are interested in connecting with their roots. "[It's about] embracing who we are and our various intersectional identities and allowing people to bring their whole selves to the table," Inofuentes says.

She continues, "For centuries, European languages, like Spanish and English, have been viewed as though they have more value — that they are less backward, that they are better and that everything that we have is less than. We want our youth to feel confident in and proud of who they are. They don't stop being who they are just because they, for example, decide to have a law degree and live in New York City. That's a narrative that's existed for centuries, and it's been a way to erase us — that when we move from our communities to the city we've been told, 'You're no longer Indigenous.' We're fighting this big, long tide of erasure."

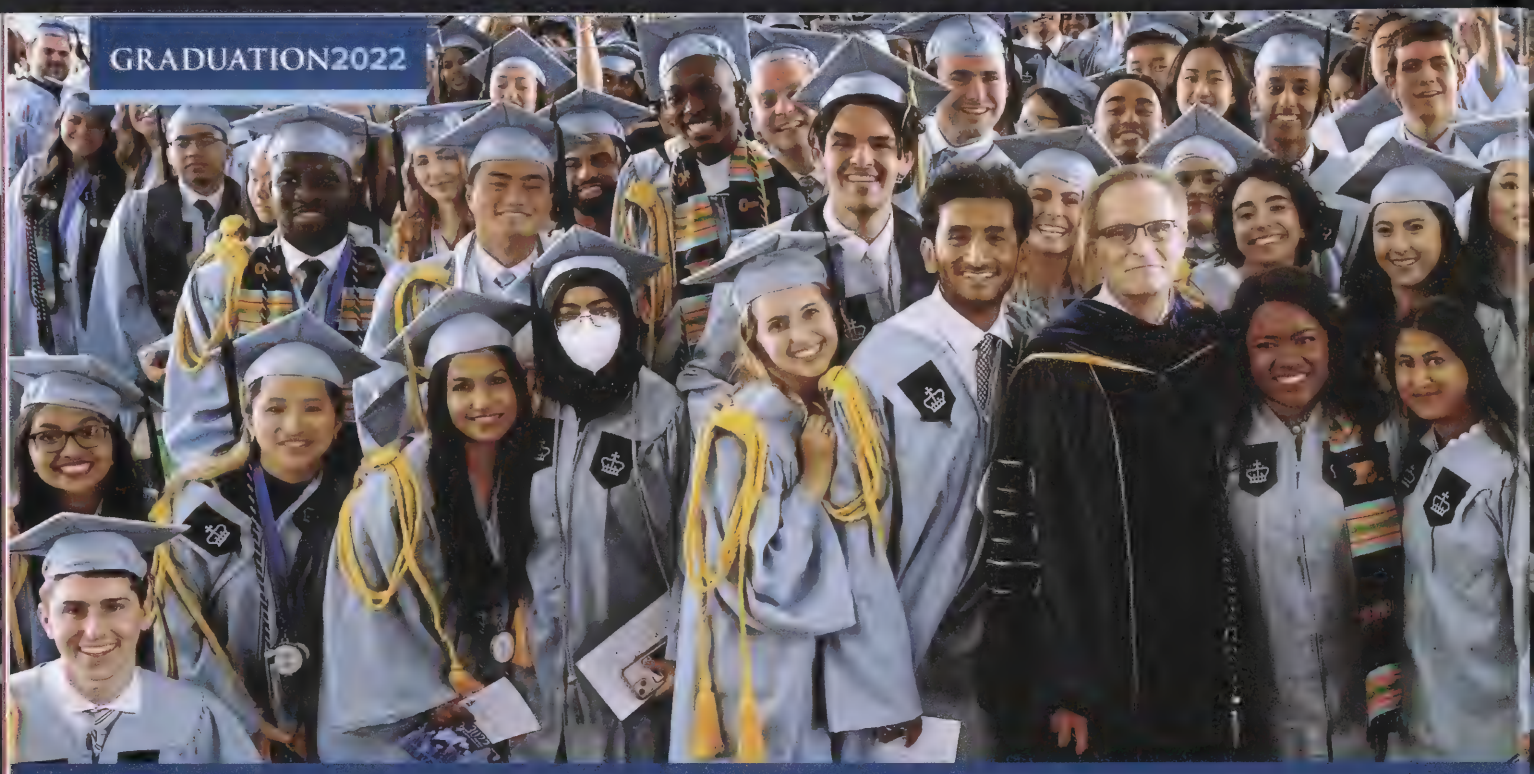
In addition to The Quechua Project's growing Instagram presence, the co-founders are conducting a survey of D.C.'s Bolivian diaspora to gather basic data about Indigenous language use in the community. Inofuentes, a Latin American studies and environmental science double major at the College, earned an M.A. from Georgetown in communications, culture and technology in 2021; she worked with faculty there to develop the survey. She plans to use the results to guide the project's strategies to support the survival of Quechua in the D.C. metro area. "The fact that it's research *by* us, *for* us is very powerful," she says. "It's not an extractive model of research."

Adds Coco, "Knowing and working with Shana makes it so that things aren't so *pesados*," [literally "heavy," but has connotations of "difficult"]. "Maybe because we flow together — I've learned a lot working with her."

***Ayni* is the Quechua word** for the spirit of reciprocity; in English it's expressed as "today you, tomorrow me" and in Spanish, "*hoy por ti, mañana por mi.*" Inofuentes says that spirit of *ayni* is what drove her to create The Quechua Project. She describes herself as "a proud daughter of the community," and says growing up dancing at *carnavales* and participating in *pueblo* events gave her a strong connection to her people and the desire to keep that connection strong among future generations. She is currently in Bolivia, creating short videos about people of Indigenous heritage reconnecting with their Andean homeland to share on The Quechua Project.

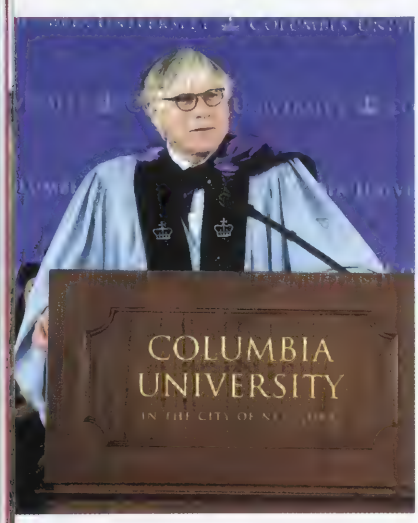
"In order to create a generation of people from Indigenous heritage like ours, who are going to be empowered to contribute to racial justice and a better world, they need to feel empowered."

"Something like Instagram can seem so intangible and not impactful, but it is!" Inofuentes says. "This is the fuel to a certain kind of fire that I hope will grow — the untapping of our inherent power, our healing into the future after colonialism. We'd like to inspire a generation of people who are secure in who they are in their indigeneity."



HATS OFF TO THE CLASS

The College joyfully returns to an in-person Class Day after three years



Photographs by Eileen Barroso

BLUE SKIES GREETED the Class of 2022 as 1,272 students joined the ranks of alumni at the first in-person Class Day since 2019. The May 17 ceremony featured remarks from Dean James J. Valentini and keynote speaker Tom Kitt '96, the acclaimed composer behind the Pulitzer Prize- and Tony Award-winning musical *Next to Normal.*

Graduating seniors who spoke at the ceremony were Zusi Inegbeniki '22, the Class of 2022 student speaker; Eva Bogomilova '22, senior class president; and Radhika Mehta '22, president of the Columbia College Student Council. Jaala Alston '22 was called to the stage as the inaugural recipient of the James J. Valentini Prize, a new award presented to a graduating senior who demonstrates the qualities of Beginner's Mind through their curiosity for and desire to learn from different perspectives.

Kitt, who is also known for *If/Then, Jagged Little Pill* and *SpongeBob SquarePants: The Broadway Musical,* among other works, delivered a speech that reflected on both the challenges of the pandemic and his own experience of transforming anger, frustration and disillusionment into "action, collaboration, inspiration and hope."

Turning to the present moment, he urged the graduates to find their stillness: "Stillness is not staring at a screen," Kitt said. "Stillness is sitting and getting lost in your thoughts. Stillness is listening to a piece of music that you never knew existed and letting it wash over you. Stillness is reading, looking up for a second, and then reading again. ... Stillness is where your greatest realizations will come from."

Quoting a Stephen Sondheim lyric, Kitt continued, "It's life's ordinary moments that make the extraordinary ones so worth chasing. We want to bottle them, but we know we can't. So we keep searching for them. But how will we ensure our lives are filled with them? By going after what's in your heart. And looking out at all of you this morning, I can see that your hearts are full and you're ready for your moments. The world is counting on that."

Kitt closed with a final encouragement: "I believe in all of you and I can't wait to see what beautiful, spectacular, breathtaking, life-changing, glorious moments are in store for all of you. Go after them, and never look back."

The University-wide Commencement took place the next day, with President Lee C. Bollinger delivering his annual address. The Hon. Rolando T. Acosta '79, LAW'82; Rebecca Castillo '94, JRN'06; and Thomas Cornacchia '85 were among the 10 recipients of Alumni Medals, given for distinguished service to the University of 10 years or more; Jodi Kantor '96 received the University Medal for Excellence. On May 19, special ceremonies were held for the Classes of 2020 and 2021, whose Class Days had been virtual because of the pandemic.

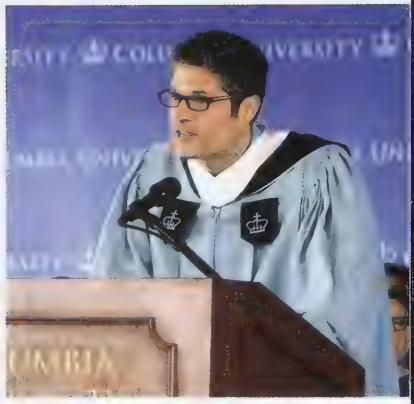




OF 2022

"I CAN SEE THAT YOUR HEARTS ARE FULL AND YOU'RE READY FOR YOUR MOMENTS."

— CLASS DAY SPEAKER TOM KITT '96















PHOTOGRAPHS BY JILL SHOMER

Jordan Kinard

MAJOR: Anthropology

WHAT'S NEXT: I'll work in journalism and human rights.

THE CC TAKEAWAY: Anything is possible if you just go for it!

JiHoon Ko

MAJOR: Political Science and History

WHAT'S NEXT: I will attend the Law School next year!

THE CC TAKEAWAY: I think Columbia has a lot of resources — both academically and professionally — but you have to go out and get them, so self-advocacy is really important.



LIVE, FROM NEW YORK ...
IT'S GRADUATION!

The excitement was palpable as the College's newest alumni lined up for (in-person!) Commencement on May 18. We asked a few of them what's next and what they are taking away from their College experience.



Lauren Apollaro

MAJOR: Sustainable Development

WHAT'S NEXT: I'm moving to San Francisco to work at an environmental consulting firm.

THE CC TAKEAWAY: Life is about balance — you have to work hard, play hard. You have time for everything — say yes to everything!



Emily Kaanelamakamae Stone

MAJOR: Environmental Biology

WHAT'S NEXT: I plan to move home to Hawaii; I'm going to live on Maui and work at a bird conservation center.

THE CC TAKEAWAY: I love Deantini! But my big takeaway is to keep an open mind to the opportunities around me and to the people I meet — I've met a lot of great people here!

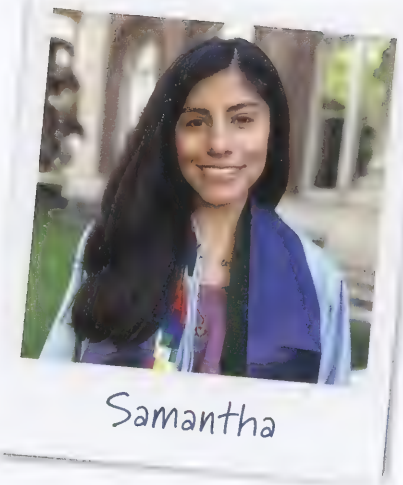


Nader Babar

MAJOR: Financial Economics

WHAT'S NEXT: I liked it here so much, I'm coming back for a master's in electrical engineering.

THE CC TAKEAWAY: Enjoy every moment, and don't stress too much about the far future.



Samantha Figueredo Botello

MAJOR: Information Science and Public Health

WHAT'S NEXT: I'm going to intern in the epidemiology department at Harvard this summer and then I'm starting a job as a software engineer.

THE CC TAKEAWAY: Resilience. Perseverance. Every day it gets a little easier!



Asiyah Rajab

MAJOR: Political Science and Film

WHAT'S NEXT: I plan to stay in the city on a gap year, work a little bit and then head to the West Coast for law school.

THE CC TAKEAWAY: No matter what hardships and trials and obstacles there are, it's the people that get you through. It's the people that make your experience, and I'm grateful for the people here.



Sam Choi

MAJOR: Visual Arts with a concentration in History

WHAT'S NEXT: I'm hoping to be a photographer's assistant.

THE CC TAKEAWAY: I've taken seven years to graduate, so my biggest takeaway is Be Patient. Everything you do will be rewarding at the end — it's OK to not know what you want to do when you first come to Columbia, because you will find something here.

Dylan Roston

MAJOR: Financial Economics with a concentration in East Asian Studies

WHAT'S NEXT: I'll be an investment banking analyst in New York City.

THE CC TAKEAWAY: I think you get what you give at Columbia. Saying yes to a lot of the opportunities here and leaning into the community is one of the most rewarding things you can do.



Tolulope Akinyede

MAJOR: Financial Economics with a concentration in Sustainable Development

WHAT'S NEXT: I'm staying in New York to do consulting at Oliver Wyman.

THE CC TAKEAWAY: Be open minded; you never know who you'll meet or what path you'll end up on!



A Reporter Returns

NBC New York's Jen Maxfield '99, JRN'00 follows up with the people she couldn't forget

Emmy Award-winning reporter and anchor for NBC New York **Jen Maxfield '99, JRN'00** estimates that she has interviewed more than 10,000 people during her 22-year career. While that might sound like a dizzying number, Maxfield says there are many stories she still thinks about; some she even has dreams about.

While covering a news event in 2021, Maxfield coincidentally spoke with an interview subject from six years earlier: the grandmother of a 15-year-old basketball phenom who had been murdered in a case of mistaken identity. The chance run-in — and learning what had ultimately happened with the family — prompted Maxfield to reconnect with other subjects who had stayed on her mind.



JAMES CLARK, INSYNC NEW YORK PHOTOGRAPHY

The result is *More After the Break: A Reporter Returns to Ten Unforgettable News Stories* (Greenleaf Book Group, $26.95). In it, Maxfield revisits the story of a waiter who lost his legs in the 2003 Staten Island Ferry crash, a young mother who was saved from a brutal stabbing by her toddler daughter and, the subject of her Journalism School master's thesis, an Ivy League undergrad sentenced to decades in prison under the now-defunct Rockefeller Drug Laws.

"Part of what made these stories interesting to me is these people didn't ask to be in the spotlight," Maxfield told *CCT*. "What is it like to have your life upended, when everyone knows what happened to you — and then all the attention goes away?"

Maxfield is interested in demystifying the process of how news gets covered, and describes piecing these comprehensive histories together from eyewitness accounts, court transcripts, letters, archived news reports and more. She was able to get through to people who are now speaking for the first time, happy that someone cared enough to reach out to them.

Others were willing to reopen old wounds to talk with Maxfield again; an especially heartbreaking chapter, "Friday Night," revisits a 2011 story about the death of 23-year-old Tiffany Jantelle, who was struck by a drunk driver while trying to help an injured dog. Maxfield remained close with Jantelle's mother, Corinne, who was willing to participate in a follow-up in order to honor Tiffany's legacy and help other parents who have lost children.

"Telling stories with care opens up avenues for the families to heal," Maxfield says. "It allows other people to help, and encourages them to support their neighbors."

Maxfield frequently reports on her home state of New Jersey. The oldest of six, Maxfield was a varsity high jumper at Tenafly H.S. — she held the school's 5'3" record for 26 years — and planned to pursue a career in sports medicine. She joined *Spectator* because she loved to write; a political science major and news junkie, Maxfield wrote a snappy op-ed column, "The Max Factor." (She met her husband, Scott Ostfeld '98, LAW'02, BUS'02, in an art history class; they have three children.)

Though she says her time at *Spec* was formative, she didn't consider journalism as a profession until she got an internship with CNN covering the United Nations. "In the winter of my junior year I was going to the U.N. every Friday," she recalls.

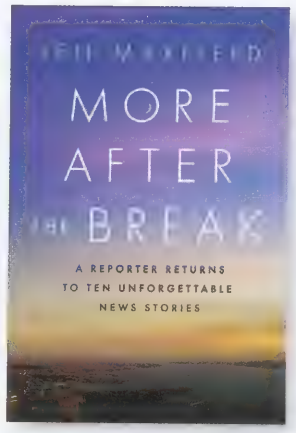
Maxfield was hired by CNN as a production assistant and guest booker while she was still an undergrad. "That behind-the-scenes experience really helped me to understand how the process works," she says. She entered the Journalism School right after graduation; by that time, she knew she wanted to be the person going out and doing the interviews. "I understood the ownership of the story from that standpoint," she says.

Her first reporting job was with an ABC affiliate in Binghamton, N.Y.; she moved back to the city in 2002 and spent 10 years at Eyewitness News (ABC7) before joining NBC New York in 2013. Maxfield became an adjunct professor at the Journalism School in 2016.

She researched and wrote the book in just 10 months, on her days off. Maxfield resisted following up with higher-profile subjects, like the heroic pilot Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger. "The people I was interested in were the ones who seemed to have faded back into obscurity," she writes in the book's introduction, excerpted here. "The men and women whose last Google search result dated back to when they first appeared on the news."

The intro's title, "The Door Knock," references the difficulty of knocking on a grieving family's door in search of accurate information. "A lot of reporters go into the business because they care about people, and they care about trying to get the story right," she says. "And a lot of them feel like I do — we might be assigned to a different story the next day, but we're still thinking about that person whose living room we were sitting in the day before. It's just that we don't always have the opportunity to return."

— Jill C. Shomer



The Door Knock

It's not surprising that I occasionally run into people in our community whom I've met before on previous news stories. As a local TV news reporter since 2000, I estimate that I have had the opportunity to interview at least ten thousand people on camera for the more than four thousand stories I have reported. And when I say I interviewed them, I don't mean on the phone, or quoting their tweets, or that a producer did the interview and fed it back to me at the office. I am talking about face-to-face meetings, seeing each other's eyes, shaking hands, laughing and crying with ten thousand people. I have written and shared their stories with our community — their triumphs and failures, their near escapes and tragic losses.

I do all of this without any preparation. Yes, I worked at CNN, wrote for the *Columbia Daily Spectator*, and earned a master's degree from Columbia Journalism School before I ever filed a single TV news report. But every day in local news is a fresh challenge, a journey into the unknown. We show up to work not knowing where we will go or who we will meet. This uncertainty poses some logistical challenges, a reporter version of Murphy's Law. Wearing new shoes? You'll be assigned to cover a flood. Have concert tickets with friends for seven p.m.? Practically a guarantee you'll have a six p.m. live shot across the state. Think you got an easy assignment in a beautiful Jersey Shore town? Sure, until someone tries to run you down with their SUV when you're covering their parish priest accused of embezzling millions. And yes, that all actually happened.

The story I am assigned after our morning meeting may be changed three times before noon. We could drive one hundred miles in the live truck for an interview, only to be diverted to breaking news as soon as we arrive. At least now we have GPS to prevent us from getting lost. When I started reporting in 2000,

we kept a milk carton full of map books in the live truck, and I navigated while the photographer drove. Find the right county book, look up the town in the index, find the street name, go to page 16, Grid C4. Map reading truly is a lost art.

All that effort was before we emerged from the live truck to start gathering interviews. We could knock on dozens of doors without getting a single person to talk. We could knock on one door and get screamed at before they slammed it in our faces. And yet, every day we went live from somewhere, broadcasting to our community, talking to our neighbors about what happened that day.

A frequent (and fair) criticism of local news that I've heard since I was a student at Columbia is that we don't do enough follow-up. We descend upon a news event, collect our information, broadcast our reports, and then move on to the next story. Every assignment ends with a cliffhanger and we never get to watch the next episode. Part of this is the business model of local news: reporters gather interviews, report, and write as many as three stories for broadcast every day. But part of this also feels like self-preservation. With all our exposure to chaos and sadness, the healthier option may be to not linger. We dip our toes in the pool of your grief but never jump in for fear of drowning.

Just because the news cycle has moved on and we are chasing another story, it doesn't necessarily mean the relationship between the reporter and subject ends. My first mentor in news, Gary Tuchman, a national correspondent for CNN, told me recently that he will come across a name in his address book and reach out years — even decades — after their stories have aired. People who lost loved ones in the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing, or on TWA Flight 800. "I call them to check in, see how they're doing," Gary explained. "I want them to know that I care, and that they meant more to me than just a sound bite on the news."

Speaking with other friends and colleagues, it's clear that many of us want to stay connected with people featured in our news stories long after the headlines have updated. Unlike my work conducted through texting, emails, and Zoom, short face-to-face encounters with strangers can have outsized impact. Many of us who interact with the public share this sensation of feeling like we intimately know someone soon after meeting them. Police officers who are humbled by a particular 911 call. Nurses who never forget a patient. A military officer who remembers the children from the town where she served. A minister who counseled a couple and wonders if they stayed together. A store clerk who recalls an elderly customer. A social worker who is curious about what happened to that child he helped after she went back to her parents.

Since the first day I started reporting for NewsChannel 34 in Binghamton, New York, I have questioned my role and responsibility for telling other people's stories. I appear during traumatic times in their lives with no special training. I cannot offer medical advice or spiritual guidance. I cannot help them heal their pain, and I can neither arrest nor prosecute the person responsible. I do not deliver the bad news, but I am there to report on it and try to understand it, before rushing out to make my deadline for the evening news.

What I can offer is the space to tell their story. To listen and to repeat. To question and to share. Like our ancestors drawing on the walls of caves, humans all share the instinct to exchange information, and the most compelling way to do this is by telling a story. As difficult as it may be for a person to speak with us from their hospital bed, as excruciating as it may be for a family member to construct sentences in the haze of their grief, as overwhelming as it may be to make sense of a breaking news scene, the people who speak to me understand that they are constructing their legacy. And that their story will be an integral part of our community's shared history.

As an adjunct professor at Columbia Journalism School, I share the same wisdom with my students that was passed down by my news director at ABC in New York, Kenny Plotnik: "Find the eyewitness and tell me their story." Without the personal perspective, the news is just a collection of facts, the same thing you could find in your local police blotter. Yes, many stories contain object lessons for the viewer: look both ways before crossing the railroad tracks, read your teenager's text messages, learn the Heimlich maneuver. But the most unforgettable news stories include universal truths about love and devotion. We bear witness so that these stories are not forgotten.

This excerpt of *More After the Break,* by Jen Maxfield, is presented with permission from the author and Greenleaf Book Group. For more information, please visit jenmaxfield.com.

alumni news



THESE LITTLE TOWN BLUES ...

The Empire State Building was lit in blue and white on May 18 to mark Columbia's 267th Commencement, held in person for the first time in three years.

DAVID DINI SIPA'14 / COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY; THE EMPIRE STATE BUILDING IMAGE ® IS A REGISTERED TRADEMARK OF ESRT EMPIRE STATE BUILDING, L.L.C. AND IS USED WITH PERMISSION.

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Thank You, Dean Valentini

By Ted Schweitzer '91, LAW'94

The John Jay Awards Dinner, held on March 2 at Cipriani 42nd Street, celebrated six bright stars in the College alumni constellation. We had a robust turnout, with a cautious optimism that the worst of the pandemic is behind us. This momentous ceremony had been postponed for two years, and given the extraordinariness of the recipients, it was worth the wait!

As I write, the revitalization of Columbia gains momentum as students are required to wear masks less and less. Just as the magnolia buds reveal their colors, so too the former campus life of lecture halls, outdoor study groups and sports unfolds in early spring air.

Despite these hopeful signs, students must grapple with shocking news from Ukraine — witnessing Vladimir Putin's attempt to rebuild the Russian empire of old, killing thousands of innocent Ukrainians in this quest. How do Columbia students reckon with these headlines? I imagine they, like many of us, feel powerless. I fervently hope a Columbia education will help them improve the world. Students leave Columbia armed with multilayered knowledge and a deep understanding of the value of liberty. They also participate in global engagement with micro-communities that encourage compassion and connectivity, and offer portals to other parts of the world. Indeed, global engagement has become central to the Columbia College experience under the leadership of Dean James J. Valentini, aka Deantini. College students will become empathic leaders and will, perhaps, help shield the global community from catastrophes.

Valentini's 11 years of service as the leader of Columbia College (10 as dean, and one as interim dean) conclude on June 30.

The one word I think of in this context is gratitude. Thank you for your unparalleled service, Dean Valentini. We recognize all you have done to make the College better.

Last summer, when I introduced Deantini at Convocation, I referred to Scottish philosopher Thomas Carlyle. In the 1840s Carlyle articulated the great man theory of history, which posits that heroes shape the world around them. This is a theme in many of the Core Curriculum readings.

Deantini fits neatly into the philosopher's paradigm. Not unlike Odysseus, or Alexander Hamilton CC 1778, the dean took action to improve his surroundings no matter the obstacles. The voice of such greatness might unsettle the status quo, but it is for this same reason that it reverberates and becomes a legacy. Only the resolute and courageous can leave a mark on history. In this spirit Deantini advanced College life for all.

During the last 11 years, among other things, he established a strategic plan for the College to ensure continued excellence of the student experience and the Core; raised funds to support financial aid; and articulated 13 competencies, aka My Columbia College Journey, to reorient thinking about the value of a College education. In addition, Deantini emphasized the importance of Pantone 292, our College's particular shade of blue, which visually unites us. While doing all this, he encouraged a philosophical mindset of the unjaded "Beginner's Mind." And, on a note of pure fun, he participated without fail in an annual snowball fight with students in front of *Alma Mater*.



COURTESY TED SCHWEITZER '91, LAW'94

Schweitzer and Valentini at a March 15 reception in Beverly Hills.

In the realm of alumni engagement, Deantini brought vigor and fresh perspective, emphasizing how we are part of one community of past, present and future students. He also established the goal of 100 percent alumni engagement, sending a message about the strong role he envisioned us taking within our multi-generational Columbia community. For example, the Odyssey Mentoring Program was launched to facilitate both alumni-to-alumni and alumni-to-student connections. The dean also championed a new series of AlumniTALKs, many of which were presented online with a focus on underrepresented alumni voices. Deantini often refers to the College as the greatest college in the greatest university in the greatest city in the world. In so doing, he manifests his intent and instills an esprit of connection among alumni. A highlight for alumni during his tenure was the 100th anniversary of the Core.

Dean Valentini is first and foremost a scientist. And he brings a scientific approach to all, including the Core: assimilating data, combining it in new and startling ways, and thinking methodically through the implications of each new idea. We can all draw inspiration from this sort of discipline in our own pursuits. We wish the dean the best in his next chapter.



bookshelf



Weimar in Princeton: Thomas Mann and the Kahler Circle *by Stanley Corngold '55.* Corngold describes Mann's early years in America and how he became part of a gifted group of émigrés at Princeton (Bloomsbury Academic, $26.95).

Choke Hold: A Paranoid Thriller *by Art Eisensen '63.* A man is framed for the murder of his wife in this mystery penned under the pseudonym Frank Steel (Kindle edition, $4.99).

Beat Blues: San Francisco, 1955 *by Jonah Raskin '63.* Raskin's novel is set in the time and place when the American counterculture was born (Coolgrove Press, $15.99).

Elmer and Virginia: A World War 2 Romance in Letters *edited by John Odell '68.* Odell's compilation was selected from hundreds of letters exchanged by his parents, Elmer Odell and Virginia Schill, while they were separated by war (Quickfoot Books, $19.50).

The Prince and the Emperors: The Life and Times of Rabbi Judah the Prince *by Dov S. Zakheim '70.* A biographical account of the second-century rabbi Yehuda HaNasi and his interactions with the Roman empire (Koren Publishers Jerusalem, $29.95).

SUBMIT YOUR BOOK TO *CCT*

Alums! Have you written a book in the last year? Tell us about it!

college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_bookshelf

One Damn Thing After Another: Memoirs of an Attorney General *by William Barr '71.* A candid account of Barr's tenures serving two vastly different presidents, George H.W. Bush and Donald J. Trump (William Morrow, $35).

Painful Joy: A Holocaust Family Memoir *by Max J. Friedman '71.* Friedman did five years of intensive research to unearth stories of his parents, who met in Sweden after being liberated from the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp (Amsterdam Publishers, $28.95).

New York: An Illustrated History (Revised and Expanded) *by James Sanders '76 and Ric Burns with Lisa Ades.* The authors' acclaimed history of the city is updated with new chapters describing the last two tumultuous and transformative decades (Knopf, $33.99).

As I See It: A Life in Detours *by Tom Kligerman '79.* Kligerman, an architect and avid traveler, captured vibrant images on his smartphone as he journeyed throughout the world; the collection includes QR codes that link to building sites and video content (Triglyph Books, $17.95).

Day of Days: September 11, 2001, A Novel of the Fire Service *by Frank Napolitano '86.* The story of an FDNY engineman and jazz musician that culminates with the emergency response to the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center (Toren James Publishing, $16.95).

Mass Pardons in America: Rebellion, Presidential Amnesty, and Reconciliation *by Graham G. Dodds '88.* Dodds examines when and why Presidents have issued mass pardons and amnesties to deal with domestic rebellion and attempt to reunite the country (Columbia University Press, $35).

111 Places for Kids in New York That You Must Not Miss *by Rachel Mazor '98 and Evan Levy.* This illustrated guide will inspire readers to explore new neighborhoods, treat the kids in their lives to unbelievable experiences and make the city their own (Emons Publisher, $23.95).

Am I My Brother's Keeper: Educational Opportunities and Outcomes for Black and Brown Boys *by Adrianna Villavicencio '00.* Villavicencio chronicles the Expanded Success Initiative, a four-year study focused on improving the educational outcomes of 15,000 Black and Latinx males in NYC public high schools (Harvard Education Press, $33).

Mother Ocean Father Nation: A Novel *by Nishant Batsha '10.* Batsha's debut tells the story of a brother and sister, Jaipal and Bhumi, whose paths diverge after a nationalist coup in the South Pacific in 1985 (Ecco, $26.99).

Mrs. Watson: Untold Stories *by L.A. Fields '14.* This collection of historically inspired fiction investigates the friendship between Sherlock Holmes, his former lover Dr. Watson and the doctor's clever and tolerant wife (Lethe Press, $15).

Queen of All (The Jena Cycle) *by Anya Josephs '16.* In Josephs's debut YA fantasy, a teenage girl tries to save her beautiful cousin from a suspicious prince (GenZ Publishing, $17.99).

—Jill C. Shomer



TOMO SAITO

Jessica Kingdon '09 Ascends to New Filmmaking Heights

By Anne-Ryan Sirju JRN'09

For director **Jessica Kingdon '09,** the hype that surrounded her first feature-length documentary, *Ascension,* was a whirlwind. The film, which captures modern life across China, debuted at the Tribeca Film Festival on June 12, 2021, and nabbed the festival's Best Documentary Feature award. *Ascension* continued to rack up nominations and awards on the festival circuit (*Variety* called the film "a remarkable achievement" and "a window into a nation's soul"), culminating in a 2022 Academy Award nomination for Best Documentary Feature.

The film itself is unusual. It explores China's varied economic landscape, from a factory producing "Keep America Great" hats, to a business etiquette seminar, to a raucous party at a waterpark. But there are no main characters to follow, no interviews with subjects, no commentary or narration as the scenes move from one location to another. The end result is haunting, leaving viewers to draw their own conclusions about what they have seen. "[The structure] is pretty unconventional; I didn't know if I could pull off making that kind of film," Kingdon says. "But I figured YOLO — why not just try? And somehow it worked. … It did feel pretty ambitious and far-fetched at times, so the fact that it's had this kind of response is pretty unreal."

By passively guiding viewers through China's financial boom, *Ascension* investigates what Kingdon calls "the paradox of economic progress."

"Obviously in the past few decades China has lifted millions of people out of poverty, but with adopting this model of capitalism, it's also led to unforeseen consequences that have to do with environmental degradation, income inequality and the alienation of hyper capitalism," she says. "When a society undergoes such a drastic change in such a short amount of time, it brings up a lot of questions."

After spending two years traveling between America and China for filming, Kingdon wrapped her final shoot in December 2019, right before China began locking down due to the Covid-19 pandemic. (She spent another year condensing 200-plus hours of footage into a tight 97-minute runtime.) Each trip to China for filming spanned roughly five weeks, allowing Kingdon and her crew to be fully immersed in each location. Working with a small team — there were never more than three people at a time on set — helped them blend in, as well. "We were as transparent and detailed as possible with what we were doing, explaining that we were an independent documentary film crew from the States making a film about China's economic rise and looking at day-to-day

life," she says, regarding how she captured such natural moments from her subjects.

Kingdon honed her directorial sensibilities as a film and media studies major at the College and earned a master's in media studies from The New School in 2014. She began making a series of short documentaries set in China, gaining recognition on the documentary festival circuit. Her 2017 short, *Commodity City,* which takes place in the Yiwu Markets, the world's largest wholesale mall, inspired her to delve more deeply into the Chinese economy with *Ascension.* "I was interested in connecting the invisible dots of the whole supply chain and trying to give viewers a visceral sense of these hidden economies that power our day-to-day consumer lifestyles," she says.

Kingdon is now researching global food supply chains as a possible topic for her next film. She says that her interests are in "finding the minutiae and specific moments in global systems," something she explores in *Ascension*'s unflinching look at capitalism. "It's a film that can have multiple meanings and is open for interpretation but, at the end of the day, one thing I really hope is that people can see themselves in it," Kingdon says. "Even though it's about China, it's more universal than that."

Wheels Keep on Turning for Cyclist David Stanton '77

By George Spencer

Champion bicyclist **David Stanton '77** has a not-so-secret alter ego — Captain America. Most mornings find the razor-lean cyclist in a skin-tight, stars-and-stripes jersey, powering through training rides as long as 60 miles near his Newport Beach, Calif., home.

Stanton, a gastroenterologist, earned the iconic shirt last September after winning a gold medal at the USA Cycling Master Track National Championship in Trexlertown, Pa. He took the 65–69 age group division honors (defeating a former U.S. Olympic cyclist), finishing the 2 km velodrome race in just 2 minutes and 36 seconds.

Donning the winner's jersey gave Stanton "the thrill of a lifetime." He'd wanted it since his first national competition nine years ago: "I really loved it, coveted it, and you never know if it's going to happen for you," he says.

A lifelong athlete, Stanton played on Columbia's varsity golf team, and as an adult, took up competitive skiing. He came to cycling in 2009 when his wife invited him to attend her spin class; realizing he had found a sport that would give him "a lot of athletic purpose later in life," he took to it with gusto.



COURTESY SAN DIEGO TIME TRIALS

In 2010, to celebrate his first anniversary on wheels, he entered the Everest Challenge, a two-day mountain stage race in the Eastern Sierras that includes 29,000 feet of climbing. After suffering a broken collarbone at the start of a crowded race, in 2013 he switched to time-trial events. Racing on 24-mile courses, he then won six straight California championships in his age group.

Stanton loves cycling's rigors. "You learn determination. You learn patience. You learn resiliency. But at the end of the day, bicycle racing is about tolerance of suffering," he says. He paraphrases legendary Belgian cyclist Eddy Merckx: "I'm no better than anybody else. I can just suffer more." For Stanton, the sport is "about pushing yourself to the so-called 'pain cave' and holding it for however long you need to hold it."

He tested those limits in 2015 when, for six days and eight hours, he competed on a four-man team in the ultracycling event Race Across America. During this nonstop ordeal from California to Maryland, one team member continuously rides while the others rest in a van. "It was like nothing I'd ever done or would ever want to do again," Stanton says. (His most memorable state? Colorado, because of the extreme temperature changes; in Durango, he says the day started at freezing and hit 85.) He only got one or two hours of shuteye that week— when the odyssey ended at 1 a.m. in Annapolis, he couldn't remember how to open a champagne bottle.

"Cycling has taught me I thrive in an environment where the process is king. I like playing to big events, big things, big goals. I can set lofty goals, sometimes meet them and enjoy the process along the way," he says.

Now in training for this fall's national championship, Stanton has a new challenge — keeping up with, and beating, younger competitors. "As you get to the back end of your age group, it's a whole 'nother challenge," he admits. "But honestly, after winning it once, it's now all gravy. It hasn't diminished my desire, but it certainly diminishes the stress."

George Spencer *is the former executive editor of* Dartmouth Alumni Magazine. *He lives in Hillsborough, N.C.*

classnotes



COURTESY COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

Dan Aykroyd and Bill Murray on campus while shooting *Ghostbusters* in October 1983; Low Library is featured prominently in the film. Go to page 18 to read more about Low, which is celebrating its 125th birthday this year.

1950

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

Arthur L. Thomas sent a note:

"Hello, Class of 1950. I am a proud Columbian who is happy to share with you his unforgettable experiences while an undergraduate.

"In September 1946 I went out for crew, where after rigorous daily practice on the waters of the Spuyten Duyvil at Baker Field and in the tank at 116th Street I rowed in a number of races for the light Blue and White over three seasons. I was in eight-man shells that raced in frosh, JV and varsity races in three New England and three mid-Atlantic states. We raced against only one other shell to several other shells at a time. I was never in a race where the Columbia shell caught a crab. The shells and oars were made of wood. They were three of the most intensely focused and happiest days of my life.

"Long live the Lions, then, now and for evermore. God bless *CCT* for allowing me to once again reiterate the great moments of my student life at Columbia College."

Thank you to Arthur for reaching out! Please share your news and updates by sending an email to cct@columbia.edu or use our online Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

1951

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

Herm Bieber SEAS'62 shared an update in response to *CCT*'s call for news:

"Hi folks. Another year has passed, and I am still chugging along in my New Jersey senior residence (908-795-1219). There are too many activities here, excellent food and only minor impacts from the pandemic, because we have diligently followed vaccination, person-to-person distancing, masking and all other required restrictions. And Zoom is a great near-substitute to meeting in person. I zoom with my whole world-scattered family once a week.

"Health-wise, I am getting along quite well, even with some normal age-related short-term memory loss. But, I have had no problems in writ-

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ing my memoirs (see * later in the column), starting at age 5. My heart problems seem under control, but I have developed some neuropathy in my hands and feet. Likely this stems from a mid-life spine fracture (while mountain hiking) that is now getting arthritic. So I had to give up driving and use a walker to keep in balance. But, most importantly, I have absolutely no pain anywhere, and can get around on flat ground OK.

"Sadly, time has destroyed the Class of '51, and the ravages of age made it impractical for me to attend the annual Columbia Reunion.

"I have had a most interesting life and career, managing to visit 122 countries on business, and to engage in my hobbies of bird-watching, mineral collecting and photography. But I take the most pride in my three children and four grandchildren. My daughters, the oldest one retired, are all doing well. And my four grandchildren, three in college, and the fourth now on a Fulbright fellowship in Germany, show great promise of having very successful careers, too.

"My best to all who can remember our wonderful Columbia days seven-plus decades ago!

"*Memoir #15, 'How I paid for my college education' (eight years and three degrees from Columbia!), might be of interest to some. Copies are available, on request. Please send an email to hermbieber@aol.com."

Thank you to Herm for reaching out! Please send your news and updates via email to cct@columbia.edu or use our online Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

1952

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

Joseph Di Palma's wife, Joycelyn Engle, writes that he was selected to represent New York's 12th Congressional District in a National Survey Project on proposed changes to Medicare, but he could not accept due to health and other commitments. Joseph and Joycelyn contracted Covid-19 on their way home from Palm Beach, Fla., in April 2021, but it was mild, and they were well again in about a week. Joseph celebrated his 91st birthday on January 17, 2022.

Sholom Shafner writes: "I was looking forward to the 70th reunion in June, and to seeing those who were able to attend.

"Upon graduation, I received a commission as a naval officer and was on active duty for three years during the Korean War. In 1955 I left active duty and joined my family retail furniture business in New London, Conn. I ran the business until 2001, when I reached 71 and time for retirement.

"Also upon graduation, I married Janet Schreier BC'53. Together we raised four sons, until she passed away from lung cancer in 2011, after 59 years of a wonderful marriage. She was a remarkable artist and had a vast knowledge of art history. Fortunately, when I met her, my Contemporary Civilization and Art Humanities classes came in handy: I learned some art history and some art lingo that showed my interest in what she was doing. The rest is history.

"Speaking of CC, I found it very interesting. But after learning some critical thinking, I was surprised it presented Western civilization as beginning with the Greek and Roman empires! During the years since graduation, I have become aware of being intellectually short-changed: The seeds of Western Civilization go farther back. When I did my CC readings, the only mention of a Jew was a Jacob Fugger, who invented double-entry bookkeeping in the Middle Ages.

"It was Judaism that brought to the world the Torah, which said that 'man was created in the image of God,' which laid the foundation for democracy. And the idea of learning by questioning became the beginning of science and progress. These concepts and many others preceded the Babylonian, Greek and Roman empires that attempted to wipe out the Jews. And now those empires are gone, and the Jews are still here, winning more Nobel prizes than their small percentage of the world population can explain.

"It's time CC was updated."

From Dr. **John Benfield:** "Dr. **John Laszlo** and I reconnected on April 12 at the Seven Lakes Country Club in Palm Springs, Calif. We met at John's daughter's home, located where Dwight D. Eisenhower achieved his only hole in one playing golf. (See the nearby photo!) Eisenhower became the president of Columbia in 1948, when John and I started as freshmen. During his welcome address to our class, he referred to himself as also a freshman.

"John and I have in common that we were Jewish refugees from the Nazis in Vienna in 1938. Each of us was named Hans before we became John. We both grew up in New York City, each of us a commuter to Columbia, one from Manhattan's East Side and the other from the West Side. After three years at Columbia, we went to medical school, John to Harvard and I to the University of Chicago.

"For many years, John headed the Duke Cancer Center. My career was mostly at the University of Chicago (where John served his internship), and the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA. I had the privi-

COLUMBIA SCHOOL DESIGNATIONS

BC	Barnard College
BUS	Columbia Business School
CP	Pharmaceutical Sciences
DM	College of Dental Medicine
GS	School of General Studies
GSAPP	Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation
GSAS	Graduate School of Arts and Sciences
HN	Institute of Human Nutrition
JRN	Graduate School of Journalism
JTS	Jewish Theological Seminary
LAW	Columbia Law School
LS	Library Service
NRS	School of Nursing
PH	Mailman School of Public Health
PS	College of Physicians and Surgeons
SEAS	The Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science
SIPA	School of International and Public Affairs
SOA	School of the Arts
SPS	School of Professional Studies
SW	School of Social Work
TC	Teachers College
UTS	Union Theological Seminary



REBECCA LASZLO

Dr. John Benfield '52 (left) and Dr. John Laszlo '52 reconnected on April 12 at the Seven Lakes Country Club in Palm Springs, Calif. Here, they pose near Laszlo's daughter's home, located where Dwight D. Eisenhower achieved his only hole in one playing golf — commemorated with a plaque.

lege of serving as president of the Society of Thoracic Surgeons — the largest in the world in my specialty.

"We agreed that the United States had offered us outstanding opportunities, better than those we might have had in Austria. We remember and admired our parents for their courage to escape fascism."

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1953

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

Four CC'53 alumni responded to *CCT*'s call for news. Please send in your updates, so you can be in a future issue! Share news with us by email: cct@columbia.edu, or online using our Class Notes webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

Joel Danziger writes: "As I enter my 90th year, my memories of my days at Columbia College and Yale Law School seem to take on increasing clarity and importance in my life. My friendship and educational experience with [Dean] Harry Carman, Irwin Edman CC 1916, GSAS 1920 and the rest of the CC faculty were truly extraordinary and defining.

"I live on a horse farm in Bedford, N.Y., with my wife of 64 years, Joan (no horses at present). Our three children (lawyer, physician and classics teacher) all live nearby and we see them frequently, along with our six grandchildren. I continue my association with our law firm, which I started more than 60 years ago and which is now one of the preeminent firms in Westchester County.

"We have spent the last 50 summers in Nantucket, where we were fortunate to have built an oceanfront house before such projects became unaffordable. I hope we will do the same this summer, if health permits. We have traveled extensively and we feel very fortunate to have done so while health and stamina permitted. Both my Columbia and Yale roommates have passed on so I rely on many happy memories."

Michael Guerriero SEAS'59 writes: "It's hard to think that graduation was 69 years ago. I'm grateful that I attended both the College and Columbia Engineering. My best wishes to the Class of '22."

Dr. **Donald A. Taylor** writes: "I recently celebrated my 90th birthday, and it was uneventful. I am a retired radiologist and reside in a very pleasant condo in Holliston, Mass. I keep busy daily chasing my dog (he's a Yorkie); doing continuing medical education courses on the computer; watching the surging Boston Celtics, one of my favorite teams aside from the Patriots and Bruins; reading; and going for walks. I've had bilateral hip replacement so walking isn't as easy as previously.

"Unfortunately those Columbia classmates whom I kept in touch with have passed but I did attend our 50th reunion. I am a member of the 1754 Society."

Dr. **Ralph G. DePalma** writes that he was born in the Bronx, attended public schools and graduated from Columbia College and the NYU School of Medicine with honors. He served as a flight surgeon in the Air Force and completed surgical training at University Hospitals of Cleveland, where he became a professor of surgery and subsequently chair of surgery at the University of Nevada School of Medicine and The George Washington University. From 2000 to 2008 he was national director of surgery in the Department of Veterans Affairs and currently is a professor of surgery at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences.

Ralph has research and clinical interests in shock, vascular disease, sexual dysfunction, blast and explosion injury and surgical quality that have led to more than 300 chapters, books and peer-reviewed publications and lectureships. He has received the Founder's Award of the American Venous Forum, The Distinguished Alumnus Award from NYU and the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Association of VA Surgeons. He lives in McLean, Va., with his wife, Maleva.

1954

Bernd Brecher
brecherservices@aol.com

Despite the two-year Covid-19 lockdown, members of our Class of Destiny continue to make their mark as the world enters a third year of uncertainty, with the third year of the disease still hanging on, Ukraine continuing to hold off the Russian empire, our economists trying to ward off coming inflation, climate change beginning to mark the end of the line for the Arctic polar bear, and science, truth, and facts being denied by bonobo-like dictators and politicians worldwide.

But there is hope, as several of you could still appreciate my comment that my Apple computer was going bananas. Our correspondents this issue once again include those who have previously enjoyed sharing their doubts, doings, and observations, as well as first-timers making their debuts. Welcome and bless us all!

Sam Barondes PS'58 is "pleased to report that The Bancroft Library at UC Berkeley has released the 390-page transcript of *Samuel Barondes: Integrating Molecular Neuroscience with Psychiatry,* an oral history of my life and career. In it I describe, with gratitude, and at length, my good fortune to have been a member of the Class of '54, along with a number of other transformative events. It's all available for free online. The link to the announcement includes links to the transcript and to video excerpts on YouTube."

Sam sends "warm regards to classmates and invites them to please check it out" online at bit.ly/3LWM5pI.

Congratulations, Sam, on continuing to make your mark in your profession and to sharing your progress with all of us.

As a founder in 1980 of the Alzheimer's Association and a recipient of its Genesis Award, I can readily identify with **Larry Gartner,** who penned the following. (While no one in my family had the disease, in 1980 I was the "professional" among the score of founders and a consultant to Jerome H. "Jerry" Stone, a Fortune 500 CEO and the man whose vision and determination virtually made the organization into what it is today.)

Larry writes: "I am writing this on my phone, so it will be brief because I cannot write with my thumbs like the young folks. Life on our little ranch north of San Diego has been good, but I miss having my wife here with me. Her Alzheimer's got so severe I could no longer safely care for her at home, as I had done for the last 15 years. She is in an excellent memory care center about 20 minutes away. I remain busy with gardening and woodworking. Children and grandchildren are all well and doing very good things. I plan to go to Scotland and Ireland with my daughter and son-in-law and a group of neighbors. It will be my first escape from California in about three years."

Thanks, Larry, for sharing and for your good works as a caregiver. We hope your "escape from California" turned out to be all you hoped. Stay in touch, old *Spec* editorial board colleague.

Kamel Bahary and his brothers, Emil BUS'57, SEAS'62 and William GSAS'61 — all active Columbians — were scheduled to move at the end of April to Kendal on Hudson in Sleepy Hollow, N.Y., which he has described as "for older persons who are able to live safely in a residential setting with many amenities, and where Susan will join me."

Best of luck to all in your new abodes. We plan to visit, mainly to find out if our classmate is really an "older person"; Kamel appears neither to have aged since we met him in 1950, nor has his energy waned in working for or giving to alma mater. Thanks, Kamel, as always.

Another wandering celebrant comes home. Welcome back to **Bill Burleigh,** who writes, "I imagine those of us who are from the Class of Destiny are reaching 90 and do not provide many respondents who are still standing. I am one of those rare birds from Utah, along with Bill Jackson '52, Mitch Price '53, **Dick Wall,** Cal Jenkins '55 and several others who attended Columbia during the early '50s. I have lived, worked, and retired in several states, but returned home to the Salt Lake City area in 2015 to be close to family because of health problems. (Isn't it strange how so many of us return home — or never leave it?)

"I have many fond memories of the many friends I met at Columbia, who were from all parts of the USA and even the rest of the world. I remember the many bull sessions held in someone's dormitory room in which all variety of subjects were hotly discussed. The same types of discussions were held in some classrooms, which opened my mind to 100 different things. High school was easy because all it required was rote memory, but the hardest thing about Columbia was it required you to think."



Zain Athar '21 (left) and Justin Ghaeli '22 spotted Dr. Elliot Gross '55's Columbia College cap while on a stroll through the Upper West Side on April 9 and approached him, striking up a lively conversation about their vastly different (and in many ways similar) Columbia experiences.

Bill appears to be ready for that terminal memoir or autobiographical novel. He continues, "My memory is still good, but my thinking has become a little fuzzy with age. I wish the best to all those of the Class of 1954. If any of you remember me, I would be happy to hear from you at burlyboy1@hotmail.com."

Thanks Bill. We're all ready to walk with you on the Great Salt Lake.

Bennett L. Aaron LAW'57 writes: "My wife, Carol, and I will miss attending [the Law School] reunion this year. Carol was at the graduation in 1957. We have been married for 66 years.

"A little more than a year ago our law firm, Pepper Hamilton, merged with the Troutman firm based in Atlanta. I think that it was an excellent move for both firms. I had been going to my office on a daily basis with my usual suit and tie. The arrival of the pandemic resulted in closing our firm on March 13, 2020. I have not been back since. I do not miss wearing suits and ties! Carol and I are enjoying these extra years. We've had more breakfasts together since retiring than in all the previous years."

We hope all your comments and concerns have been addressed; still, due to external issues beyond our control — including my not-to-depend-upon back — if we missed one of your submissions or concerns, please email me at once and you will be included in the next issue. Thank you to all who have written — for your suggestions, news, and expressions of personal appreciation or frustration. Stay in touch even between deadlines; sometimes that's even better than waiting. Be well, stay well, be good, do good, help heal the world.

Luv, Bernd.

Excelsior!

1955

Columbia College Today
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[Editor's note: *CCT* was saddened to learn of the January 29, 2022, passing of longtime class correspondent **Gerald "Jerry" Sherwin,** also known as "Mr. Columbia." Sherwin not only helmed this column for 40 years and was this class's leader, but also was a ubiquitous presence on campus, especially at Lions men's basketball games and Columbia College alumni and student events. Read more about him in "Obituaries" at college.columbia.edu/cct.]

Dr. **Elliot M. Gross** writes: "I and **Donald Laufer** attended the [March 5] memorial for **Gerald 'Jerry' Sherwin** in St. Paul's Chapel. I was impressed with the warm reminiscences of the Athletics staff and those who knew our classmate from his basketball team and Columbia College Alumni Association affiliations. The heartfelt expressions of gratitude for his mentoring of many College alumni during their undergraduate and later years were impressive."

Costas "Gus" Katsigris BUS'56 sent an update: "Retired in 2001 after 31 years as director of the Food and Hospitality Institute at El Centro College, now El Centro-Dallas College. Currently writing a textbook, *Book of Wines, Beers and Spirits.* Have a house in Greece that I visit every summer."

Stanley Corngold checks in: "Although a member of the Class of '55, I graduated in 1957, as I chose to do my Army service before completing my requirements. My service took me to Mannheim and Heidelberg, which excited an interest in German thought. I then taught English for several years with the European Division of the University of Maryland, aiming to help soldiers with battlefield commissions to obtain their B.A.s. With the aid of a National Defense Education Act fellowship, generated by the provocation produced by the launching of Sputnik, I acquired a Ph.D. from the Department of Comparative Literature at Cornell, whose business was mistakenly taken to be 'psyching out' the mentality of putative enemies of our country, hence, the NDEA grant. In fact, the remit was learning theoretical deconstruction from Paul de Man. I thereafter taught German and comparative literature at Princeton for 43 years until my retirement in 2009. Since then, I have been writing books on works by Goethe, Kafka mainly, and, more recently, Thomas Mann. Two titles that have recently appeared are *The Mind in Exile: Thomas Mann in Princeton* and *Weimar in Princeton: Thomas Mann and the Kahler Circle.*

"My first wife, Marie-Josephine (née Brettle), became chair of comparative literature at Rutgers; my present wife, of 30 years, Regine (née Üllner), is an accomplished photographer. My stepdaughter, Natascha (née Weisert) runs strategic policy for UNIDO in Vienna. I seem to be in good health (walking, biking, cooking, washing up in a Zen trance), very grateful for the life I have lived and am living. I would be very happy to see classmates again!"

Milton Finegold shares a memory: "As assistant captain of the all-male cheerleaders, as well as the lightest weight member, I was selected to be lifted onto the outstretched arms of the West Point Cadets and passed down from the top of the Baker Field stands to the field at halftime of the annual game in September 1952. It was the time when Columbia's then-president, Dwight D. Eisenhower, was running for U.S. President, and the game was among the first to be televised (but not recorded, to my knowledge). On reaching the ground and somersaulting, I was congratulated by the West Point cheerleaders and handed two quarters that had fallen out of my pants pocket."

Thank you to those who answered *CCT*'s call for notes. Please share your news and updates by email: cct@columbia.edu, or online using the Class Notes webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

1956

Robert Siroty
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Newt Frohlich LAW'59 finished the first draft of his new historical novel on George Washington and how he came to free his slaves. While waiting for his editor to try to shorten the draft of 517 pages, he is working on a memoir that will include his days at Columbia.

Jay Martin had a volume of poems published in 2021, *Visions, Variations, Varieties,* and has recently published a book, *The Psychologies of Political Exile, from Ovid to the Dalai Lama.* His novel *The Last Gamble* was to appear this spring. Records that he was married five days after graduation and wonders if he is the longest married in our class.

Ron Kapon has been appointed the civilian representative for the NYPD for the Upper West Side — a volunteer position. He's still a basketball fan who attended all the men's games and 50 percent of the women's, who lost in the finals for the Ivy title.

Buz Paaswell, back at his office at CCNY, will start a big federal- and state-funded program to train people from underserved NYC areas for "new tech"-related infrastructure jobs.

After some difficult medical problems, **Jerry Kaufman** is still working in commercial real estate, having partnered for 15 years with Sammy Davis Jr. and for five with Michael Jordan.

The Palomares Veterans Act, designed to help veterans affected by exposure to Plutonium 239 during

the cleanup in Spain in 1966, is now ready for the President's signature and was passed with help from **Murray Watnick** in his role as a board-certified specialist in nuclear medicine. Palomares was considered the worst nuclear accident of the Cold War.

Phil Liebson reports hunkering down on the North Shore of Chicago during the pandemic, and has virtually completed "my latest Chicago Literary Club essay on cosmology and quantum mechanics."

Alan Broadwin SEAS'57 is still "active and kicking" and continues to work as a consultant for an aerospace company as a "quality systems consultant." Notes that the standard for the ultrasonic surgical devices that he helped write is about to be updated.

Living half the year in the Bay Area and the other half in Santa Barbara, **Joseph Berzok** has been retired for 32 years after a career at Macy's and British American Tobacco US.

Martin Mayer LAW'59 is planning a marketing campaign for a new instructional manual, *Traversing the Commercial Lease Minefield.*

Stuart Cartoon LAW'59 is in Palm Coast, Fla., is retired from the practice of law and is enjoying the absence of snow and ice.

Bill Fischer has relocated to Palm Beach, Fla.

Michael Schwartz is retired and living in Oakland, Calif., and in Hartsdale, N.Y.

John Censor is still in business working from home, and is still in-line skating.

Seymour Zivan SEAS'58, SEAS'59 reports on his career with Xerox, and after many years has relocated from Rochester to NYC. He is enjoying being a great-grandfather of 10.

Allan Hoben writes that he spends summers in Maine but most of the time is in Berkeley, Calif. He endowed a scholarship at Columbia last year. Would like to hear from classmates.

Waiting for warmer weather to return north, **Dan Link** looks forward to "reunion" in Westchester after returning from Florida.

Jerry Breslow keeps busy as office manager for his wife's clinical practice. This after having both knees replaced. Laments that his long-running poker game, which included **Frank Neuberger,** has failed to keep up. Saw **David Leive** at a law school reunion. Still on the board of the Strathmore Hall Foundation, which operates the music center and other facilities in Montgomery County, Md. Hopes to resume tennis in July.

Ed Botwinick has been hunkering down in Charlottesville, Va., for the past two years enjoying what was normally a summer home.

Jack Katz is still in the solo practice of psychiatry, but is beginning to contemplate retirement. He has been reduced to pickleball, no longer playing tennis.

Steve Easton reports, as the remaining Class Agent, that the Class of '56 scholarships and the Class of 1956 Alan N. Miller Scholarship Fund performance increased more than 30 percent for the year ending June 30, 2021. After $42,000 was distributed as scholarships, the year-end balance was $987,000.

Don Morris sent a piece, *The Importance of Being Invisible.*

Now for the unhappy news: **Frank Thomas** LAW'63, described by *The New York Times* in a full-page obituary December 24 as "a path-breaking Leader of Charity" died on December 22, 2021. Frank was the first Black captain of an Ivy League basketball team and his accomplishments as president of the Ford Foundation are detailed. His tenure in the Air Force, then at the Law School, are documented. I remember his role in ending bias in the Columbia off-campus housing registry in our senior year.

Jerome Schwartz GSAS'65, a modern French scholar, died on January 10, 2022. After graduating, he went on to a Fulbright Travel Grant, joined the faculty at the University of Pittsburgh in 1965 and became full professor in 1989. He specialized in 16th-century French language and literature. He was an accomplished pianist and organist, and an artist.

[Editor's note: See "Obituaries" for more on Schwartz, and go to college.columbia.edu/cct for more on Thomas.]

1957

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We heard from the following classmates for this issue.

Paul Stanley Frommer: "Sadly, I report that my [twin] brother, **Alan Frommer** SEAS'58, passed away last spring at his home in Wellesley, Mass. He had fought Parkinson's for 11 years. Alan leaves his wife, Judy (née Goldman); his daughter, Michele '86, and granddaughter, Isabella Wade, of Atlanta; his son, Benjamin '91 (Martina); and grandsons, Emil and Erik, of Evanston Ill. Our older brother, Herbert '54, DM'57, predeceased him.

"In 1960, Alan and Judy married, having been introduced by **Lou Rothman.**

"Alan spent most of his working years doing financial analyses for major corporations. The highlight of his early career years was the three years he and Judy spent in Paris.

" ... During the same time Judy and Alan were in Paris, I was stationed at the European U.S. Naval headquarters in London. Our visits with each other, back and forth from Paris to London ... were like living in Dickens's *A Tale of Two Cities.* That period turned Alan into a lover of French wine and food. Upon their return to the United States, Judy and Alan settled permanently in Wellesley.

"At graduation [from Columbia], Alan received a Varsity C for lightweight crew. At one time he was president of the Columbia Club of New England. He loved Columbia, always telling people what a wonderful education he got there." [Editor's note: See "Obituaries."]

Erich Gruen: "As I move into my late 80s, I can no longer get away with claiming that I am in advanced middle age. I got a sharp reminder of the passage of time when I spoke (remotely) at a conference honoring a retired professor in Berlin. He responded to my lecture by saying "I am very pleased that Erich Gruen participated in this conference for I remember reading his books when I was a student." This was meant kindly, but it was a mixed message. I felt like reaching for a wheelchair. I try to ignore the advancing years by staying active in the profession.

"I spoke at two other conferences, at Oxford and Utrecht, but both of them through the medium of Zoom. I did manage to make one [other] appearance in the flesh, at Brigham Young University, where the generous Mormons overlooked my heresies. Five more of my articles appeared in print in 2021, thus proving that I am still of sound mind (if not body). More importantly, I greeted a new grandson in Boston and an older grandson in Providence who performed a solo concerto (cello) with the Brown University Orchestra. I was hoping to make it for the 65th reunion of our class in June. But that might be a stretch."

Ron Hellman LAW'60: "As the Class of 1957 nears perilously close to the front of Class Notes, I take this occasion to get my name in print in these pages for my one and only appearance. Although I spent seven years in Morningside Heights, four at the College and three at the Law School, I was a commuter from Jackson Heights, Queens, for much of that time. So I didn't get the full campus experience, with the exception of writing for *Spectator.* After graduation and military service, I atoned for that absence by attending a number of lectures and Dean's Day events, serving on the Alumni Representative Committee interviewing applicants to Columbia and sending my son to the Class of 1992. But I remain a Queens boy to this day, living in Flushing with my wife of 58 years, still showing up at my law office in Douglaston and playing some tennis in Bayside. (Both of my children and a granddaughter live in Manhattan.)

"For 17 years I produced 50 contemporary plays of significance at Queens Theater in Flushing Meadows-Corona Park with my semi-professional company, The Outrageous Fortune Company. The website is still up — take a look (outrageousfortunecompany.com). I also did some community theater acting, running for President in *The Best Man* (Bill Russell), hanging out with a 6-ft. rabbit in *Harvey* (Elwood P. Dowd) and attending Columbia Commencements in *You Can't Take It With You* (Grandpa), among many other roles. Another artistic connection was with the Queens Council on the Arts, where I was president and a board member for quarter of a century.

"Covid-19 has denied [me] some of my favorite activities — traveling, theater-going and fine dining — but I remain upright and in good health. All in all, a good life, and being a former Brooklyn Dodgers fan and a present New York Mets one, has taught me to deal with adversity. Now we face many threats, climate change and anti-democracy heading the list, but I try to rely on this quotation from Horace Walpole: 'The world is a tragedy to those who feel,

but a comedy to those who think.' Classmates, take your pick!"

George Lutz: "I continue to practice mind/body medicine in Warren, N.J. I remain in basically good heath, which I attribute to regular exercise and good nutrition. I enjoy learning opera with my designated expert, my wife, Eileen."

Jacques Ullman: "As I look out from my house in Sausalito, Calif., at the sailboats in Richardson Bay, I appreciate my good fortune at having had a long, rich and fulfilling life. [Having been] raised by intellectual, bohemian parents was a good starter. But, going from rural California to Columbia College in New York City was one of the wisest choices I have made. I had never been to an opera or a major museum, or taken a subway. And, although I was not an exceptional scholar, I did get a good, solid liberal arts education that has stood me well. My modest architectural practice produced some buildings that I think have enhanced some lives.

"It has been a joy for me to hear people who have been using a building I designed say that they are still experiencing it in new ways. But as I indulge in all this good feeling I am saddened that, as a generation that actually lived and suffered losses from the fight to save democracy from fascism, we are now seeing democracy again significantly threatened both at home and abroad."

Herbert D. Sturman LAW'61: Herb has been included in *Marquis Who's Who.* As in all *Marquis Who's Who* biographical volumes, individuals profiled are selected on the basis of current reference value. Factors such as position, noteworthy accomplishments, visibility and prominence in a field are all taken into account during the selection process.

After 58 years of practicing law, Herb has recently retired. Previously, he was of counsel to Freeman, Freeman & Smiley; the senior partner of Fierstein & Sturman, a firm with 23 lawyers; and a federal prosecutor in the Los Angeles Office of the United States Attorney. Presenting numerous lectures for the California Continuing Education of the Bar, he has been a regular contributor of book reviews for tax publications and chapters for books as well. He notably contributed chapters for *Tax Practice in California* in 1984 and *Federal Tax Procedure for General Practitioners* in 1969, where his chapter was devoted primarily to trust fund tax liability under Sections 6671 and 6672 of the Internal Revenue Code. These sections impose personal liability upon corporate officers and/or corporate employees who withheld taxes from employees of the corporation and failed to pay those withheld taxes to the IRS. The withheld funds constitute trust funds under Sections 6671 and 6672.

Herb was licensed to practice law by the New York State Bar and State Bar of California in 1961 and 1962, respectively. Additionally, he has been a certified tax specialist by the State Bar of California.

One of the highlights of his career was representing a taxpayer in the United States Supreme Court in *United States v. Janis.* Although the Supreme Court decision was adverse to his client, the matter was reversed and remanded for trial in the district court, where Herb was able was able to resolve the case and the taxpayer's liability for less than 5 percent of the amount claimed by the IRS.

He also received a personal commendation from Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy and the Department of Justice for his work in handling Sections 6671 and 6672 cases under the Internal Revenue Code. As a result of his actions, the government's success rate increased substantially in all future litigation under these Internal Revenue Code sections.

Herb's career has had some interesting moments aside from typical taxpayer representation. Among other things, he was counsel for the Beach Boys and involved in their day-to-day operation. Additionally, he and one of his clients co-founded Harrah's Resort Atlantic City [N.J.].

Attributing his success to hard work, staying abreast of the law and being responsive to and patient with his clients, Herb has been the recipient of a number of honors and accolades throughout the years. Impressively, he holds an AV Preeminent Rating for legal ability and legal ethics from Martindale-Hubbell, the highest rating in the field. Herb has been AV rated by both members of the bar for more than 45 years and the judiciary since the judiciary started rating lawyers. He has contributed his skills to Brentwood Country Club as a member and as chair of the Men's Division of the Jewish Federation; has been on the Board of Directors of the Stephen Wise Temple; and has been a member of Stop Cancer, The Maestro Foundation, the Harmony Project and the Guardians for many years.

Born in New York City to Louis and Dora Sturman, Herb has been happily married to Beverly DM'57 for 60 years. He is also the proud father of Elise Museles, Tracy and Robert, and grandfather of Noah and Daniel Museles. In his free time, he enjoys golf, exercising in the gym, theater, reading, travel, sporting events and spending quality time with his family and dog, Harvey.

Please send me your news for a future issue.

1958

Peter Cohn
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At the end of October, when the Winter 2021–22 issue closed, we were optimistic that once the Delta variant of the Covid-19 virus ran its course, the city, state and country would soon be back to "normal." Boy, were we wrong! The Omicron variant made its appearance and we were back in the wilderness. This time, we will hedge our bets: *If* there are no new troublesome variants, we should be back to "normal" by the time you read these Class Notes.

The mailbag contains a contribution from **Joe Dorinson** updating us on his recent activities, which are always interesting: "I published an article in Kishor Vaidya, editor, *Teach History with a Sense of Humor: Why (and How to) Be a Funnier and More Effective History Teacher and Laugh All the Way to Your Classroom*; Canberra, Australia, 2021, which pays tribute to our Columbia education, personified and inspired by Professor James P. Shenton '49, GSAS'54. My book, *The Black Athlete as Hero,* was to be published this spring. On April 20, I planned to chair a Brooklyn Public Library panel of prominent authors Peter Golenbock and William Rhoden for a discourse on the intersection of race, sports, history and politics. Stay tuned."

It is fair to say that Joe is one of the leading authorities in the country on this topic, so we will definitely stay tuned!

A few days before this issue of *CCT* closed we were saddened to learn of the death of **Bernie Nussbaum,** former editor-in-chief of *Spectator* and lifelong leader in our reunions and other College activities. Bernie earned a law degree from Harvard and entered the legal arena. He began his career as an assistant U.S. attorney in Manhattan, served as a senior member of the House Judiciary Committee in the Watergate investigation, was White House counsel for Bill Clinton and was partner for many years at the New York firm of Wachtell Lipton. At his funeral before an overflow audience at the Park Avenue Synagogue, two of the eulogies were delivered by his lifelong friends **Ernie Brod** LAW'61 and **Shelly Raab.** They emphasized how Bernie had risen from humble origins on the Lower East Side to become one of the nation's most successful corporate litigators, but had always remained an especially kind and generous person, a true "mensch."

Bernie was a widower, predeceased by Toby and Nancy, and we offer our condolences to his extended family. [Editor's note: See "Obituaries" at college.columbia.edu/cct.]

1959

Norman Gelfand
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The last few months have apparently been quiet ones for our class, as I only got a few responses to my plea for news. I hope that with spring here and summer approaching (as I compile these Class Notes) you will all be more active and that you will share these activities and experiences with classmates.

Ralph W. Wyndrum Jr. SEAS'59, BUS'78 reports, "Recently, my age-related macular degeneration progressed rapidly, leaving me legally blind in both eyes. What a change in lifestyle. We returned our leased car, moved to Uber (my wife, Meta GS'60, no longer drives), forgot speed reading and acquired a lot of electronic gear for the visually impaired: 32-inch computer monitor plus Microsoft Magnify, small camera/LED screen reading devices and essentially a battery-powered tricycle that goes 15 mph and is good for 1–5 mile trips to stores and so forth. No more hops to ShopRite for milk … we use the local Acme or 7-Eleven. We're stabilizing at a new norm, but want to be totally

self-sufficient and stay in our home on the water. I think we will."

I am sure that you will. Our best to you and Meta.

Steve Trachtenberg moved from Washington, D.C., to Minnesota to be closer to family. He discovered that winters are cold there. Surprise, surprise. Steve's years at The George Washington University are still having an impact. Ten students from D.C. are being given a free ride to GWU, having been awarded a Stephen Joel Trachtenberg Scholarship.

Jerome Charyn has been busy. His new novel, *Big Red,* starring Rita Hayworth and Orson Welles, will be published in August, with a cover designed by celebrated satirist Edward Sorel, who has done more than 50 covers for *The New Yorker* and also designed the cover of Jerome's first novel.

Jerome's short story "White Chocolate" was selected as one of the best crime stories of the year by the Mysterious Bookshop Press; he is working on an animated TV series, "Hard Apple," based on his novel *Blue Eyes;* and his graphic novel, *Little Tulip* (drawn by François Boucq), will be turned into a live production by Barry Films.

Mike Tannenbaum GSAS'65 reports, "My wife, Barbara, and I visited CERN and Geneva in February 2020 and returned on February 27. There was a minor inspection at the Geneva airport on the way home but we didn't really understand why until we got home to Manhattan.

"We stayed two weeks and then moved to my daughter Nina Tannenbaum '99's house on Long Island. I was planning to retire at the end of March 2020, but moved it to the end of September 2020. In this period, I was able to do a lot of work cleaning out my office and moving the most important material to another office I was given because I was awarded emeritus status at Brookhaven National Laboratory starting October 1, 2020. Since then, we moved back to full time in Manhattan, but go back and forth by LIRR to visit. Also, we did go to one of our favorite drug stores on Long Island to get vaccinated.

"Right now I am sitting at home in Manhattan with my granddaughter Tiye Tannenbaum Castelli (Nina's daughter), who goes to pre-kindergarten at P.S. 290 and is a great Columbia prospect when the time comes.

"For the past few years, I have been participating with the Columbia University Seminar on Science and Subjectivity, which meets monthly at Faculty House followed by dinner but has been only online during the pandemic (**Jay Neugeboren** also attends).

"As summer approaches, it seems that the vaccines are working so that things will be normal this fall and we can go to seminars, lectures, and football and basketball games at Columbia. Roar, Lion, Roar!"

Robin Motz GSAS'65, PS'75, who left physics to attend P&S, implores us to "get a booster and then check your Covid-19 antibody level every three months." He reports, "I have been to eight Off-Broadway plays in the past three weeks, all heavily attended and well written and acted. NYC streets are abuzz on the weekend, and the Village sidewalks are packed, especially MacDougal Street and the famous Cafe Wha, where I saw Dylan, Baez and Denver. Central Park is full of tourists."

From **Jerry Friedland:** "First, greetings to Class of '59 mates after this challenging year. My condolences to those who have lost family members and colleagues and friends to Covid-19 or other causes during this difficult time. I'm glad for the opportunity to provide some thoughts about my past year of living with Covid. To put these in context I should mention that before Covid took over our 'normal lives' and pushed aside our graceful aging, I had spent the last 40 years as a clinician and academic infectious diseases physician confronting the previous and ongoing local and global pandemics of HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis in the Bronx, New Haven, South Africa and globally.

"Although I have come to know these two intertwined diseases and their history, and the sorrow and havoc that they have wrought (as well as the great successes in combating them), the arrival of SARS-CoV-2 still came as an unexpected, unwelcome new pandemic. It sent me back to Albert Camus's novel *The Plague,* which I first read at Columbia, to remind me that as with the pandemics of HIV and TB and now, Covid, 'people always think that plagues just come out of a clear blue sky. But there have been as many plagues as wars in history, and always plagues take people by surprise.' In fact, globalization with climate change, population growth, rapid travel and communication and continuing racial, social and economic inequities has made this pandemic inevitable and in retrospect, we should have been better prepared. But our incompetent and dangerous national 'leadership' and accompanying denial and delay have made things immeasurably worse than they might have been.

"During the past year I have experienced personal denial, despair and isolation. I expect most or even all of us have felt this. This has also been a part of past pandemics, but knowing this has offered little consolation, even with the new normal of Zoom calls and meetings. I do think that one saving reality for me has been staying close (though virtually) to best friends, many of them Columbia classmates, including **Arthur Rudy, Jay Neugeboren** and **Arnie Offner,** and having the benefit and good fortune of living through this together with my wife, Gail, and being close to my three adult children and three not-yet-adult grandchildren. But, nevertheless, the feeling of separation, danger and anomie was intense. Maybe that's because we think we are so advanced that we are past this kind of seemingly uncontrollable and disorienting force of nature, or perhaps it was because of the lightning local and global spread of the Covid virus and its consequent huge amount of suffering and mortality, or maybe because of our own 'senior at risk' and with co-morbidities status — or most likely a combination of all of these. The vulnerability for us and loved ones has been more palpable and unnerving than with other pandemics in my (our) lifetime, except perhaps polio — in the distant past when we were all young — or HIV for those at risk. But this has been thankfully softened by the remarkable development of effective SARS-CoV-2 vaccine(s), which has been a triumph of science, though the challenges of vaccine availability and implementation locally and globally have tempered their success and are sobering. Nevertheless, I suspect that all of us will always remember getting vaccinated once and then again three weeks later, and cherish that memory. I do, and can't wait until my youngest grandchild gets his.

"I am an emeritus professor but still working in a 'retire…ing' mode. Because of age and a frustrating decline in some skills, I have been more on the sidelines than in previous epidemics; realistic but still frustrating. But my younger colleague healthcare workers have been among the real and usually unsung, but now recognized, heroes and heroines of the Covid pandemic. Being placed in the path of the pandemic, they have been courageous, committed, competent, caring and so very admirable. They exemplify what Camus also concluded in *The Plague:* 'What we learn in a time of plague is that there are more things to admire in people than to despise.'

"I'm working now more indirectly on Covid alongside these wonderful colleagues. I have been able to provide some useful new information about this pandemic and written about the features of the response to the prior and ongoing HIV pandemic that could be of use in combating Covid. I have also participated in the performance of a Pfizer vaccine trial and a study to determine the level of benefit of the vaccine for people living with HIV. Knowing that plagues always expose and widen the flaws and faults in societies, and motivated and illuminated by both Covid and Black Lives Matter, I'm fortunate to be working with younger and more energetic colleagues to help design and implement a curriculum for medical and infectious diseases trainees and faculty on the history of and continuing effect of racism and structural and social inequities in creating increased vulnerability to and poorer outcomes



from infectious diseases. We are taking this a step further and designing what we hope will be feasible, acceptable and effective strategies to improve access to prevention and care among marginalized and underserved people and communities. We hope that this will be a small step forward in helping to heal these longstanding, wide open and painful wounds and faults in our society. I hope that we all stick around long enough to see this come to pass.

"My best wishes for good health and a safe and vaccinated year and future for us all."

I am sorry to have to pass on the sad news of the deaths of **Robert E. Selz** on October 28, 2021, and **Myles N. Weintraub** on February 20, 2022. [Editor's note: See "Obituaries."]

1960

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We've endured two years of the pandemic, an experience unlike anything in our 80-plus years. Due to the consequently reduced *CCT* print publication schedule, and the longstanding limited length of each Class Note column, some of the following notes might seem dated: Some are reflective, some uplifting; alas, some chronicle our losses.

Peter Schweitzer married Anne McBride on October 29, 2020, and offered these few words that speak volumes: "I have never been so happy!"

Our congratulations and best wishes to Peter and Anne.

Peter advises he stays in touch with **Rene Plessner.**

On June 4, 2021, **David Gordis** GSAS'67 noted: "I'm writing this on my 81st birthday. My wife, Felice BC'63, GSAS'70, and I moved to Albany from Boston 12 years ago when we retired, to be near our daughter, son-in-law and granddaughters. Daughter and son-in-law are clinical psychology professors at SUNY Albany. I was president of Hebrew College for 15 years and Felice chaired the social sciences department at Lasell University in Boston. We have a similar cohort in New York, where my daughter is a professor of English at Barnard and my son-in-law a professor at Fordham Law. My principal time is spent on music. I am a cellist and do a lot of chamber music playing. I also read and participate in several study groups with colleagues and friends. Our health is good and we are enjoying a good life here."

Leonard Berkman, 53 years teaching at Smith College, shares a reflection on his experience conducting classes via Zoom.

"Surprising to say, there were considerable pluses, definitely keeping the scale in balance rather than landing with a crash. My playwriting classes — as my students also affirmed — had ironic elements of greater 'actuality' as we discussed their fresh-inked student scripts with the voices of their characters in our unrehearsed readings seeming to hail from an alternative universe, not from actors sitting around a circle in a classroom with fluttering typescripts in their hands. Except in one instance of contemporary drama that kept certain students from speaking as freely with their full-screen faces on view as when they could keep checking my or their classmates' facial expressions for signs of shared insights or different perspectives, Zoom was comparable to actual face-to-face immediacy. A major further positive entailed my ability to enlist numbers of prominent professional playwrights in hour-or-longer Zoom interviews without having those playwrights need to find breaks in their schedule to travel to Smith in person. Lynn Nottage, David Henry Hwang, Kathleen Tolan, Sarah Ruhl and Charles Mee Jr. (et al.) became a glorious parade of playwrights my students (who adore their work) felt they were privileged to come to know in greater numbers than we can manage in more usual academic years."

Our virtual monthly Class Luncheons convened by **Art Delmhorst,** employing **Claudio Marzollo**'s Zoom account, have been quite successful. The regular and occasional attendees include Art, Claudio, **Andy Kubishen, Bob Berne, David Kirk, John Pegram, Josh Pruzansky, Bill Host, Joe Giacalone, Larry Rubinstein, Frank Zmorzenski, Ira Jaffrey, Sid Hart, Harvey Snyder, Joe D'Erasmo, Jon Strimaitis, Mike Gelfand, Michael Katz, Paul Nagano, Bob Abrams, Ralph Galdo, Rene Plessner, Peter Schweitzwer, Bob Berselli, Paul Chevalier, Rolf Weingardt, Stu Reuter, Harry Lenhart, Irnie Sollinger, David Goldman** and **Victor Chang** (until, sadly, Covid-19 claimed Victor in October 2020). My own participation at the Zoom meetings has been limited by my acute technical ineptitude and my abject failure to adapt to this digital age. I miss our actual luncheons.

Many of the Zoom regulars were in NROTC. Consequently, stories of their Naval service abound. Art informed me of **Mike Gelfand** PS'64's first appearance at the luncheons: "You and I remember Mike well as the coxswain in our freshman lightweight shell. Josh, Dave and I were the first three on the call and were trading sea stories when Mike came on. I apologized and said this is what happens when a few ex-Navy guys get together. Much to our surprise, Mike countered: 'Well, I was in the Navy, too!' After med school he entered the Navy, was a doctor on the aircraft carrier *U.S.S. Saratoga* and became chief surgeon for the entire Navy in the Mediterranean. He was a lieutenant commander, higher in rank than any of the rest of us at that time!"

Quite apart from this nautical revelation, Mike submitted a reminiscence of events that brought him to Columbia. "As a child, for many years, I spent eight weeks of the summer at Camp Paradox on Paradox Lake in the Adirondacks. During all of those years, the head counselor was basketball coach Lou Rossini. The staff was composed of the entire basketball team (including future coach Jack Rohan '53) and members of the swim team and other sports. Their speech was peppered with: 'See you around the Quad.' I had no clue what that meant. In part, because of my summer experiences with those great guys, I was determined to attend Columbia. Flash forward to 1956 when, during my first day as a freshman on campus, a classmate, in parting, said to me, 'See you around the Quad.' I looked around and suddenly realized that having achieved my goal, I was standing in the Van Amringe Quadrangle: 'The Quad,' and the meaning of the expression suddenly became clear. Fortunately, no one noticed the tears streaming down my face."

Peter Phillipes writes: "Until last year, my wife, Suzy, and I were enjoying a very interesting and active life in Florida with lots of exciting travel and time with family and several community organizations, including the Columbia University Club of Sarasota and the Sarasota Opera Guild; I was president of both. At the end of 2019, Suzy and I traveled to Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands, our 69th country visited and unfortunately our last trip together — 2020 through the first half of 2021 was lost to us because of the pandemic and an escalation of Suzy's health issues, which required me to become her full-time caregiver. She was diagnosed with cancer; fought a valiant, but losing, fight; and passed away on June 1, 2021, two weeks short of our 62nd anniversary. We had been married in 1959, and after spending 80 percent of our lives together, I am learning how to live alone.

"I renewed my involvement in community organizations, including a membership on the Board of Trustees of the Artists Series Concerts of Sarasota. My daughter, Debra, and my sons, David and Larry, are now beyond or approaching 60, and the youngest grandchild, Lucy, is 23. I am looking forward to the start of the next generation: grandson Matthew and his wife, Haley, for whom I performed the wedding ceremony in 2017, and grandsons Jake, William, Drew and Alec, who are pursuing different life paths. I plan to resume traveling — a Mediterranean cruise from Malta to Marseille. I watched a video about Columbia's Manhattanville campus, and would like to visit that. It is nice to see the University is growing and evolving, but hard to believe it's 62 years since we graduated."

Steve Lerner passed away in 2021. This tribute was co-authored by **Norman Lane** and **Nathan Gross** with input from Steve's widow, Anne.

"Rabbi **Stephen Lerner** passed away peacefully on January 27, 2021, at 80, a victim of Covid-19. His three great loves were his family, Judaism and the Jewish people, and alma mater. Survivors include his beloved wife, Anne Lapidus Lerner, a renowned scholar of Jewish literature; son, Rabbi David Lerner '93, daughter, Rahel Lerner '00, their spouses and five grandchildren, one of whom attends Barnard College.

"Steve was editorials editor of *Spectator,* and was a member of the Senior Society of Sachems. He was active in alumni affairs, helping to organize many of our class

reunions. Steve established an endowment at the Spectator Publishing Co., which will present an annual Stephen C. Lerner Award to a staff member for outstanding investigative or data journalism.

"After his ordination at the Jewish Theological Seminary he served as rabbi at Town & Village Synagogue in Manhattan as well as at synagogues in Riverhead and West Hempstead on Long Island. In 1981, as part-time rabbi of Congregation Kanfei Shahar in Ridgefield Park, N.J., he founded the Center for Conversion to Judaism, now based at Town & Village Synagogue in Manhattan. In that capacity, Steve was responsible for more than 1,800 conversions.

"He was a lifelong friend to many classmates and colleagues, with whom he engaged in frequent spirited conversations. After posing the perennial question, 'And how is your spiritual health?' he would engage on a wide range of subjects: politics, baseball — a dedicated Mets fan! — movies or a recent program of Broadway songs at the 92nd Street Y.

"The warmth, enthusiasm and loving personality of our devoted, loyal classmate and dear friend will be deeply missed."

Anton Klotz, a longtime resident of Dobbs Ferry, N.Y., passed away suddenly on March 4, 2020. He is survived by his two daughters, two sons and nine grandchildren. [Editor's note: See "Obituaries."]

1961

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Jim Ammeen BUS'62 continues as chairman of the board of Conecuh Brands. In January, the company broke ground on its distillery in Troy, Ala., to produce Clyde May's Alabama Whiskey, Bourbon and Rye. The distillery has been years in the making and will catapult Troy into the national spotlight. Named for an Alabama moonshining folk hero, the brand has won awards from the Ultimate Spirits Challenge, *Wine Enthusiast,* New York Wine & Spirits Competition and most recently the San Francisco World Spirits Competition. The Clyde May's brand is distributed in all 50 states and internationally, as well. The distillery is expected to be completed in spring 2023; production will begin immediately and the first product produced from this facility is projected for release in 2027.

The George Washington University Jackie Robinson Project celebrated its 25th anniversary and the 75th anniversary of the integration of modern Major League Baseball on April 13. **Richard Zamoff** GSAS'63 is JRP's director.

After **Bob Salman** LAW'64's primary victory in 2021, he continues to serve as the senior male member of the New Jersey Democratic State Committee representing Monmouth County. He will be on the ballot in this June's primary, running unopposed for another two-year term as a member of the Monmouth County Democratic Committee, as will his wife, Reva.

In February, Bob underwent an ablation procedure at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia University Irving Medical Center and had Dr. **Oscar Garfein** PS'65, BUS'97 as a source of comfort.

Bob's grandchildren continue to be the source of much joy, he says. Jack is finishing his third year at Wharton, is a TA and will be an intern at Credit Suisse this summer. Sydney will be married in October to Tyler DeMontigny. She has a master's in nutrition and is a registered dietician at Hartford Hospital. Taylor, who is a member of Morgan Stanley's wealth management team, recently passed her Securities Investment Essentials Exam. Finally, Mackenzie finished her first year at the University of Florida at Gainesville.

Stuart Newman LAW'64 is actively practicing law with the anticipation of a dram of Clyde May's after dinner, courtesy of **Jim Ammeen.** Stuart writes that **Mickey Greenblatt** deserves kudos for stepping up to preserve the tradition of **Tony Adler**'s monthly class luncheon. As **Philippe de la Chapelle** observed when they spoke recently, our class is blessed with some very interesting and accomplished members, and Mickey is providing all of us with the opportunity to hear them speak about topics within their wheelhouse on monthly Zoom calls. Recording the Zoom calls serves as a great way to review specific points of interest.

Gene Milone continues to write journal articles on eclipsing binaries, contributing articles to books on historical figures and refereeing papers for scientific journals.

Thanks to the use of hypotonic salt solution eye drops, the edema in Gene's right eye following cataract surgery two years ago has disappeared and he now has the best vision in that eye he has ever had.

In the not-so-good-news department, a full corneal transplant in his left eye is needed because of a technician's clumsy attempt to measure inter-ocular pressure with a handheld tonometer 13 years ago. This resulted in a "glaucoma attack," causing a pressure build-up that subsequently damaged the lens and cornea, and subsequent cataract and then partial corneal transplant that proved too inefficient to stem the edema.

The Covid-19 pandemic has caused repeated delays in full corneal transplant surgery for several reasons, but mainly because installing foreign tissue in one's eye is particularly hazardous. Gene hopes to have full binocular vision again, someday.

Mike Clark SEAS'62 retired from Dow Chemical in 1994 and moved to Reno. He and his wife, Joanna, spent the winters skiing and the summers hiking the Sierras until 2009, when Mike had a knee replaced (it went poorly). That meant goodbye, skiing/tennis/volleyball and hello, golf.

When Mike and Joanna decided they had shoveled enough snow in Reno, they began spending and enjoying the winters in Tucson (pleasant to warm temperatures, and low humidity).

Joe Rosenstein published a book on April 15, *Reflections on Pirkei Avot (Ethics of the Fathers): Not Just What My Rebbe Taught Me.* Joe can be reached at joerosenstein.com for further information about this and his other publications. He is Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Mathematics at Rutgers.

Barry McCallion and his wife, Joanne, are well and have resumed traveling. Joanne went to London and environs to visit friends and from there to Paris for a few days. Then she flew to California to visit her sister. In the fall, they will join friends on a small boat tour of the Adriatic Coast so, barring a new Covid-19 surge, they will resume their normal routine.

Meanwhile, Stanford University, Emory University and several private collectors have recently acquired Barry's unique books. New ideas keep appearing, and fishing will resume someday.

Sadly, **Sam Strober** passed away in February 2022 from myeloma, a B cell cancer originating in the bone marrow. **Max Cohen,** also a physician and close friend, discussed Sam's ongoing treatments, the effect they were having on his breathing and the attempts by his oncologist to ameliorate his symptoms with medications that were causing other side effects. They discussed the tradeoffs associated with the ensuing bargaining that Sam embarked upon to try to minimize his treatment dosages — discussions that brought memories of brainstorming in college on tough parts of physics, chemistry or calculus, and later on difficult medical topics for two years in the dorm at Harvard Medical School.

After the second year of medical school, Sam took a year off to do research at Oxford. Sam and Max both ended up at the Massachusetts General Hospital and the NIH, but parted geographically when Sam then went to Stanford to do medicine and research and Max to the NIH to do surgery and research.

Sam's 40-year career was committed to his long-term goal of eliminating the need for immunosuppressive drugs in patients with organ transplants. He wanted to establish in those patients an immune tolerance to transplants. He received a $6.6 million grant to study the injection of blood stem cells and T cells from a kidney donor into a kidney recipient, in an attempt to increase tolerance to the transplanted kidney. This work did not prevent him from mentoring high school students interested in biomedical research, however.

Sam had four children and four grandchildren.

Gerry Brodeur passed away on March 13, 2022, after a long battle with cancer. Gerry began active duty in the Marines in 1961, serving for 20 years and retiring as a major. His service included combat tours in Vietnam and an advising role during the Yom Kippur War in Israel. While on active duty, Gerry became actively involved with the Toys for Tots program, something that he continued for the remainder of his life. Gerry had been a resident of Las Vegas since 1992.

A celebration of life will be held at a place and date to be determined, and his ashes will be scattered in Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii. Memorial contributions may be made to the Las Vegas Toys for Tots: las-vegas-nv.toysfortots.org. [Editor's note: See "Obituaries" for more on Strober and Brodeur.]

1962

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These notes will reach you after our 60th reunion. Please, if you were there, we'd love to hear about your experience, whom you saw, impressions of the College 60 years after you graduated and so on.

John Garman BUS'67 wrote a remarkable letter describing his decade-long search for a career that would harness his talents and give purpose to his work. Unfortunately, there wasn't enough space in the last issue to include John's letter. So here it is.

"Finding my way in work took 10 years. I was seeking not merely a job, but also a career to give me a purpose. In college I'd enjoyed being a politician. So I entered the Law School, because I'd been told that politicians needed legal training.

"However, after a semester and a half, I realized that neither law nor politics was for me. So I continued my search. First, traveling with only a backpack, I hitched across the country. Forty-thousand miles later, the Army drafted me, and I wound up fighting the Vietnam War in the 'five-sided funny farm,' aka, the Pentagon. Exploring the United States and learning about its worldwide reach became major building blocks for me.

"Realizing I needed to earn a living, I returned to Morningside Heights and got an M.B.A. That led, of course, to selling microfilm equipment for Eastman Kodak. Naturally, Kodak assigned this upstate New Yorker to the lower half of Mississippi and upper half of Louisiana. There I learned that sales was also not my calling. So I headed north to search along the east coast.

"After countless discussions seeking advice on how best to use my skills, I arrived back in New York City, where I happened upon a Mr. McGoy, VP of public relations for the National Association of Manufacturers. After listening to me for 20 minutes, he said, 'I think you need to sell a cause, not a product. Go see the people at Junior Achievement!' But what was JA?

"It was and is an organization that teaches high schoolers the fundamentals of free enterprise by inspiring groups of 20 to form a 'company'; sell stock; develop and market a product or service; and then liquidate the company to repay the shareholders' investments and distribute a dividend to them. To accomplish this required finding actual businesspeople to advise the virtual company, recruiting a board of directors from business and industry to fund a staff, establishing a Junior Achievement Center, recruiting high schools and businesses to participate and running a public relations program to engender community awareness. Although I was too old to be a participant, I was hired to help the students and adults who advised them. I recruited and managed a board of directors; enlisted and trained business advisors from companies that wanted to sponsor JA companies; found students from area high schools to create and operate more than 30 miniature start-up businesses; helped publicize JA; and organized annual fund drives to keep the program going.

"Because of the skills and the contacts I developed running the JA program, a nearby Chamber of Commerce recruited me to be its chief staff person. So began my 30 years as a chamber president, aka, a socio-economic problem-solver. I mobilized four communities to address daunting local issues.

"For example: rescuing a rail line to preserve 4,000 industrial jobs and save hundreds of households more than $100 on their electric bills; attracting 2,000 industrial jobs to a vacant industrial park; reducing the annual death rate on an interstate highway from 63 to none; and removing the Confederate flag from a state capital.

"This career, my life's work, was based on bringing people together to meet communal and economic challenges. It meant recruiting the right people at the right time to develop a plan of action and to mobilize them to enact their plan. Unlike a politician, I was not a public leader. Instead, I found and supported local individuals to use their power, prestige, knowledge and time to solve problems. They got the credit. I provided them with staff.

"My 10-year search gave me self-confidence and the knowledge that each section of our country has its unique norms and values, which if properly tapped could inspire a community to act. It was a lesson I learned from Columbia Oriental studies and by living by my own wits, hitchhiking alone."

Ken Lipper, who splits his time between New York/Easthampton and Santa Monica, is writing an autobiographical novel, parts of which, he says, "might become a film script." He wrote the novels *Wall Street* and *City Hall,* each of which became the basis of a successful movie.

I just had a grand time watching *City Hall.* The script, dialects, story and characters accurately portray the sound and spirit of the city.

Ken's daughter, Julie Wilcox, a nutritionist, this year published her first book: *The Win-Win Diet.* Ken continues to invest some portfolios in the equity market, which he finds "a little daunting these days."

Ken also has worked with the Rand Corp. on the subject of truth decay, "a necessary effort to restore the role of facts in the American discourse." He recently joined the board of Columbia's Mortimer B. Zuckerman Mind Brain Behavior Institute. Drawing on his experiences as deputy mayor of NYC (under Ed Koch) and as a commissioner of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, Ken spent a year working on the development of President Biden's physical infrastructure plan. He also served on a pandemic study committee aimed at improving the effectiveness of the ways American hospitals deal with pandemics and mass casualty events.

1963

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Our terrific Class of '63 Virtual Lunches continue the first and third Thursday of each month. At least 20 classmates meet on Zoom for a lively hour-and-a-half discussion about just about anything. It's great fun and an unexpected benefit of the Covid-19 pandemic. Please join us. Just email me for an invite. And please send me your Class Note! My mailbox has been pretty empty (as evidenced by this short column).

Doug Anderson passed on word of **Robert K. Kraft**'s engagement to Dr. Dana Blumberg, an ophthalmologist at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia University Irving Medical Center.

Congratulations, Bob and Dana!

Phil Satow passed on the good news that his foundation, The Jed Foundation (jedfoundation.org), the leading national nonprofit that protects emotional health and aims to prevent suicide in teens and young adults, received a $15 million grant from MacKenzie Scott to expand its efforts to make a lasting impact on the mental health of teens and young adults. Phil and his wife, Donna GS'65, named the foundation in memory of their son Jed.

My fraternity brother **Jeff Parson** GSAS'68 writes, "I've gone by the name Jefferson since I began to write seriously after a diverse career as a social worker (NYC), English teacher (Fisk University) and award-winning stone sculptor (L.I., NYC, California and Brazil); writing first three albums of original songs, the most recently 'Hillbilly Hook,' produced by Grammy Award-winner Peter Rowan; then, plays and screenplays in Ashland, Ore., where I live with my third wife, Lauren Oliver, a clinical psychologist and founder of CirclesWork! I have six lovely daughters scattered around the globe as far as Belgium and eight awesome grandchildren, the most recent arriving just this year.

Contact CCT

Update your address, email or phone; submit a Class Note, new book, photo, obituary or Letter to the Editor; or send us an email. Click "Contact Us" at **college.columbia.edu/cct.**

"Recently my play, *Antelope Girl: On the Edge of Extinction,* was in the Austin Film Festival's competition for stage plays with film potential, and my screenplay of the same title was in the ScreenCraft Animation category.

"But after many attempts to penetrate the seemingly impervious wall of Hollywood via submissions to screenwriting competitions, and countless query letters to agents, literary managers and producers, I've come to the conclusion reluctantly that it really is about who you know. My wife was a classmate of Tommy Lee Jones at Harvard in the late '60s, so — what the hell? — it's worth a try. We recently reached out to him. Meanwhile, I'm wondering if you know of any classmates with Hollywood connections whom I might get to read one of my screenplays or a detailed synopsis of one."

Can anyone help Jefferson?

Joel Magid '64 writes, "**Paul Reale** GSAS'67, who died of prostate cancer in 2020, was a true Renaissance man: child prodigy pianist, gifted and versatile composer, and UCLA music teacher and professor, master architect and renovator of his remarkable house, motorcyclist and rebuilder of classic cars, sublime gardener, collector of early computers and virtuoso computer programmer, cook, marathon bicyclist, troublemaker, and good and very loquacious friend. After Paul's death, a group of his Columbia friends (**Peter Belfiore, Richard Gochman, Alexis Levitin,** Jonathan Gold '65, Steve Rock '64, Joe Prijatel '64, Neil Silver '65 and me) joined his widow, Claire Rydell, for a Zoom memorial. In January 2022, we reconvened on Zoom in what one of us called a 'Reale Symposium' to remember Paul and update each other on our retired lives and interests. Our diversity is reflected in our majors and Paul's incredible mind: chemistry, zoology, physics, English lit, business, music, philosophy, medicine, creative writing, poetry translations from Portugese, comparative lit, and Chinese politics and culture. Paul had an amazing ability to read and absorb pages at a glance and to remember details and conversations from our Columbia days. For Paul, and all of us, Columbia College was central to our lives, interests and intellectual development.

"If Paul took you on his motorcycle down Riverside Drive, if you once argued with him or had a dark beer with him in The West End, if you didn't (or did) understand his music, or if you just knew and loved Paul and his special smile, you can join us in our next Zoom Reale Symposium sometime next year; sign up to receive details with Steve Rock '64: ser84@caa.columbia.edu."

I was searching the *CCT* online archives (library.columbia.edu/libraries/cuarchives/cctindex.html) for old Class Notes — yes, they're all there for every issue since we graduated — and I stumbled on an article from the Summer 1972 issue about **Eric Foner** GSAS'69: bit.ly/3uNerxf. Worth a read.

The CCT Issues and Index online archives were funded by a grant from the Columbia University Club Foundation, of which I am a trustee. It's a great way to relive the history of the College over the last 75 years. There is a great index for all issues, but unfortunately the Class Notes are not indexed.

Sadly, I report the death of **James Cleven,** who died on Christmas Eve from a fall after blacking out walking to his bathroom. Our condolences to his widow, Ellen. Rest in Peace.

When you're in NYC, you might be able to reconnect with classmates at our regular second Thursday class lunches at the Penn Club. Please email me if you are interested and I can confirm the date of our next lunch. In any case, we will continue to meet virtually on Zoom every first and third Thursday at 12:30 p.m.

In the meantime, please let us know what you are up to, how you're doing and what's next. Stay safe!

1964

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One of the cultural milestones of our senior year in the College was the arrival of The Beatles in America and their February 9, 1964, appearance on *The Ed Sullivan Show.* A reported 75 million people watched that evening. Fifty-eight years later I started asking classmates what they recall of that famous night, and whether anyone thought we would be talking about them so many years later. Here are the replies so far:

Merv Rothstein: "Ah, The Beatles. No specific memories of their first appearance on *The Ed Sullivan Show,* though I watched it.

"I remember, though, in summer 1964, going to a special preview of their first film, *A Hard Day's Night,* at the Beacon Theater on Broadway at West 74th Street and seeing it amid a horde of screaming teenagers. I was in my first professional journalism job, on the old *New York Post* (it was a very liberal newspaper in those days). And I interviewed for the *Post,* in his suite at the then-prestigious Plaza Hotel, Walter Shenson, who had produced The Beatles's movies. It was one of my first professional bylines.

"'We had decided at the very beginning that one thing we were not going to do was to give the film a chestnut plot, a formula story,' he told me. 'And we decided definitely to shoot the film in black and white, not Technicolor. Color on the screen has an unreal feeling, and the Beatles are real people.' I searched for the article. At the bottom of a cardboard carton on the top shelf in the back of a deep walk-in closet, I found it. From 58 years ago."

Allan Sperling: "I certainly did watch, and they were wonderful. But four days later it got even better. On February 12, The Beatles performed at Carnegie Hall, and I was there! How did that happen? Well, I was dating a girl at the time who happened to have an aunt in the PR business. She was in the midst of promoting something called Chicken Shirts — they were like the Izod shirts with their alligators, but these had chickens on them (I kid you not). I saw an opportunity and suggested that if she could get us tickets to the concert, we would wear the shirts and be photographed in them there. So she did. We arrived in a stretch limo wearing the Chicken Shirts but otherwise dressed formally (I had on an opera cape and top hat), and we were duly photographed. The only thing I remember about the performance was that we really couldn't hear The Beatles because of the screaming. It was the loudest, shrillest noise I ever experienced. Afterward, taking advantage of the limo and still dressed as we were for the performance, we went to the Four Seasons for dessert and then on to the Playboy Club (my 'cool' uncle had a key). One of the Bunnies asked me 'What do you do?' When I told her I was in college, her response was priceless: 'Oh, I would never have guessed. You look so spry.' Needless to say, the PR campaign was a dismal failure, but thanks to Chicken Shirts, I had a truly memorable evening."

Gil Kahn: "I remember being packed into the TV room in Hartley Hall watching them. I have a memory of people being held up horizontally. A crazy night. The only other time it was that packed was when JFK spoke on the Cuban Missile Crisis. Hope everyone is well."

Joel Abramson: "I remember watching and early on realizing that I was witnessing a transformative event. All the extensive hype was an understatement. Ed Sullivan was quite astute. When he had a super guest (think Elvis), they would perform two sets — first around midway through the opening half-hour and the second toward the end of the second half-hour. That way, he kept his audience. The Beatles were no exception that night, as I recall. I am pretty sure that they sang five songs, which was an exceptional number for the show. Among them were, I think, 'I Want to Hold Your Hand' and 'She Loves You.' I haven't thought about this for years, but Norman's question jogged my memory, which I hope is somewhat accurate. Stay safe, everyone."

Marty Isserlis: "My parents took my little sister to a Chinese restaurant near the Ed Sullivan studio when she was 9. Ed himself came over and told her to hurry home to watch his show with The Beatles as guests. Later both my sisters were at Shea Stadium to see them in person!"

Beril Lapson: "I recall that when I watched the broadcast I had just

Dean Gamanos '65, who teaches entrepreneurship at the Fashion Institute of Technology, is also active in local initiatives to preserve historic buildings.

had a wisdom tooth out and was in a good deal of pain. It seemed rather funny at the time to see and hear a bunch of Brits singing in quasi-hillbilly accents."

Steve Rodner: "I know I watched it but I can't remember anything else. I was more into jazz in those days (still am) than rock 'n' roll."

Steve Case: "At the time I neither had nor had convenient access to any TV set, this having then been a personal choice. Hence, foolishly, I missed the event. I remember reading in *The New York Times* about the general excitement surrounding The Beatles's arrival in NYC and, then, after the *Sullivan* show, the happy buzz about their appearance. Unfortunately for me, in those years, not paying attention to what was going in popular music, I was, but for the *Times* reports, totally unaware of The Beatles. Happily, in times since, I have gotten caught up, and I enjoy listening to their wonderful music on and off, still, fairly often."

Jeff Newman: "I watched and even got my father to watch even though he hated Ed Sullivan. I thought they were terrific and would be around for a while. But I wouldn't have imagined the breadth and length of their impact. But journeying back to Columbia the next day after a weekend at home in Washington, D.C., I listened to The Beatles again and again and again by changing stations."

Dave Levin: "The family watched, of course; who even thought about decades later?"

Allen Tobias: "I recall running into **Don Mintz** and his date on their way to a Beatles concert, dressed à la Beatles."

Tony David: "I guess I was not as advanced musically as the rest of you guys. I watched The Beatles along with apartment-mates **Peter Thall, Abby Rudolph, Nick Rudd** and **Mark Rosenberg.** I was bemused by what I recall was a screaming audience, the bobblehead quality of the band's presentation and the weird haircuts. As for the music, I just didn't get it at that time and didn't really like it for another year or two. Best to all from sunny California."

Ivan Weissman: "I didn't pay much attention to The Beatles in those early Ed Sullivan days. But **Gil Kahn,** my roommate, and I did listen to rock 'n' roll. In fact, one night, we contacted WABC Radio disc jockey Bob-a-Loo (Robert Lewis Schwartzman) and he invited us to visit him as he broadcast the overnight show. We chatted while records were on, and had a great time. Then a trip back to our Columbia dorm in the middle of the night." Gil adds: "We also discovered that he went to Brown because he always said, 'And this is for the guys up on the hill.' So we also called him intermittently when there were Brown-Columbia games."

If you have any recollections of that night, send them in.

Ivan also writes: "I was in my seat at the 2021 Penn at Columbia football game when I suddenly saw Roar-ee (the Lions mascot) accompanied by several Columbia Athletics officials headed toward me. I had won a raffle among season ticket-holders, with the prize a genuine Columbia football helmet. Roar-ee presented me with my prize and the officials asked if I was willing to appear on the video board. Eager for recognition, of course I said yes. So thousands saw me with my helmet. I didn't feel comfortable wearing it to travel home so I got some garbage bags from the maintenance staff to safely carry it home. Upon arriving at our apartment, I terrified my wife, Jane, with my plan to display the helmet in the middle of our living room. She vetoed that idea. But the helmet is actually quite attractive, painted with an American flag, the New York skyline and two Columbia Lions."

Jonathan Stein writes from Philadelphia: "Here's the link to my published essay/review in the online dance journal thinkingdance.net, which I have been writing for and editing since 2011 (bit.ly/3DqTGtH). It focuses on the Barnes Foundation's new exhibition on Southwest Native American art, with a dance take. More importantly, come to Philly to see the show and the new Barnes, which moved its iconic modern art collection from its 100-year former location to Center City Philly. Best t'all, Jonathan. P.S. On the tD homepage, you should sign up for a free subscription to our publication."

Finally, our man on the West Coast, **Bernard Catalinotto,** is hosting a monthly Zoom meeting for the class. He can be reached at bernardcatalinotto@gmail.com for the schedule.

Best to all.

1965

Leonard Pack
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In my last column, I included reminiscences of **Ed Goodgold** by **Arnold Fleischer** LAW'68 and a link to a video of Arnie's banjo playing sitting in on "Earl's Breakdown" with a bluegrass group, but there wasn't enough space to give you Arnie's personal update. Here it is:

"I retired from the NYS Attorney General's Office in March 2003 as deputy chief of the Litigation Bureau and have not given the law a thought since. Instead, I've pursued my long-standing interest in bluegrass music, not only as a banjo player but also as a promoter. Since 2006 I've curated the bluegrass concert series for the Emelin Theatre in Mamaroneck, N.Y., just up the road from New Rochelle, where I live with my wife of 46 years, Linda Pallini, and seven banjos. I'm proud to say that the series is one of the premier events of its kind in the country, having been nominated five times for IBMA (the bluegrass trade organization) event of the year. Niche music genres like bluegrass have been especially hard hit by the pandemic, and it remains to be seen how the reopening of indoor venues will go.

"I reconnected with **Ed Goodgold** about 10 years ago when a group of Tilden H.S. alumni started getting together several times a year for lunch, thanks to the efforts of **Bill Wertheim** and Harvey Rubin '54 (and since the pandemic, Zoom)."

I belatedly learned that **Robert Gunn** died on March 12, 2021. Bob was a regular contributor to this column over the years, writing about his service as an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ, where he served several churches in New York City and on Long Island. What I did not recall is that he was also a Zen Buddhist monk and priest and taught the practice of meditation for years. He was also committed to seeking justice and bringing hope to the LGBTQ community. Bob wrote two books: *Journeys into Emptiness: Dogen, Merton, Jung and the Quest for Transformation (Jung & Spirituality,)* and *One Bright Pearl: An Unholy Memoir.* You can find an obituary and memories from friends (including from his fellow Columbia Glee Club member **Peter Smith**) here: legcy.co/3DqEltd.

Dean Gamanos BUS'67, who lives in Greenwich, Conn., has been teaching entrepreneurship at the Fashion Institute of Technology in Manhattan and staying active in local initiatives to preserve historic buildings. He says he misses classmates, as it has been years since our last reunion, and therefore came up with this laudable proposal:

"Let's revive the Class of 65! Warmer weather is here and Covid-19 appears to be waning, fortunately, and many people are starting to get out, regroup and reunite. I'm suggesting that the Class of '65 do the same. Let's start the process by those of us in the Tri-State area getting together for lunch in NYC as we have in years past (how about in Midtown or Morningside Heights?).

"I hope we can start planning for a larger gathering or a class party in the fall, or even a reunion later on (when classmates from further afield can join the fun). Who's game? Please contact **Leonard Pack** if you want to get involved and we'll plan a lunch."

Barry Levine wrote that his wife, Shirley, was notified by **David Sarlin**'s wife, Istar (they have been in a book group together "forever"), that David died in his sleep during the night of November 3, 2021. Barry noted that David had been dealing with health issues. When we were still having regular NYC-area class lunches, David was a regular and enthusiastic participant. You can find memories of David here: bit.ly/3JWWzVx. [Editor's note: See "Obituaries."]

Bob Yunich reports, "Life continues to be very good. As Covid-19 restrictions subside, we're able to see our families. Joanne and I spent a weekend last July in Boston for a family reunion. My brother, Peter, and his significant other came from their home in New Hampshire; it was the first time we had seen them in nearly three years. My son and his wife, who relocated to Stoughton, Mass., from Fairfax, Va., joined us; it was the first time we'd seen them in 18 months. They visited us in NYC in mid-January; their first visit in nearly two years. We spent Thanksgiving in Richmond, Va., with Joanne's nephews and their families.

"We continue to escape on weekends to our second home in New York's Delaware County hamlet of

Andes. Delaware County is so rural it's sometimes said there are more cows than people. This was really good as the number — compared to New York City — of Covid cases, hospitalizations and deaths has remained relatively small. Delaware County had imposed fewer restrictions than NYC on gathering places and indoor dining — a welcome relief.

"For all practical purposes I have completely wound down my insurance practice and I have stepped up my volunteer work. I am a member of the executive committee of the New York State Council of Trout Unlimited, the premier national coldwater conservation nonprofit, with more than 300,000 members, each belonging to one of nearly 400 chapters. There are 36 State Councils that govern the chapters within each state. In New York, there are 27 chapters with nearly 9,000 members. As the VP, advancement, I am charged with reinvigorating a dormant fundraising platform with the appropriate infrastructure and crafting donor solicitation and retention strategies.

"I continue as a trustee of The New York Youth Symphony (NYYS), which has done a remarkable job of not missing a beat with practices and rehearsals despite the pandemic's restrictions. The orchestra performed with Billy Ray Cyrus as part of the *Fourth in America* celebration on CNN. Truly awesome. Now, live performances have resumed: the NYYS Orchestra at Carnegie Hall in November 2021 and again in March 2022; the Jazz Band at Birdland in December 2021 and again at Dizzy's Club (at Jazz at Lincoln Center); and many other venues for chamber music and composition.

"I'm now in my eighth year as financial coach with the Community Service Society of New York. I have been helping people in one-on-one meetings (lately remote sessions via the telephone or Zoom) deal with problems such as adverse credit reports, stifling credit card debt, default judgments arising from delinquent debt obligations and the quagmire around and crippling amounts of outstanding student loans. So far, I have helped more than 300 people.

"**Tony Leitner** and I enjoyed two days last June trout fishing from a float boat, with a guide, on the West Branch of the Delaware River. The Delaware is one of the best trout fisheries in the East; big Rainbows and Browns, all catch and release for the sport and the joy of fishing. We had another trip planned for mid-May.

"Joanne and I were hoping to visit Portugal and Spain this spring and Vienna and Amsterdam in late summer/early fall 2023."

Don Bachman PS'69 notified me that **David Berke** PS'69, a retired cardiologist in Castro Valley, Calif., died on December 27, 2021. A fine obituary and remembrances (including one from Don) can be found here: legcy.co/3Ds5RGU. This excerpt struck me: "[David] discovered the joy of backpacking in the Sierras in his forties and began mountain climbing. He visited all seven continents, summitted Kilimanjaro in Africa, Elbrus in Russia, Aconcagua in Argentina and Denali in Alaska, and climbed the Himalayas. When asked for advice on climbing, he wryly offered 'Always come back!'" [Editor's note: See "Obituaries."]

I join **Bob Yunich** in hoping that Covid-19 will fade to manageable levels and that we all will be able to resume more normal lives. Please share with your correspondent and classmates the details of what you're newly able to do.

1966

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

Happy summer, Class of '66! Please take a moment to write in and share your news with classmates. They would love to hear from you! Send us an email or use the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

From **Joe Lovett:** "It's always a challenge to release an independent documentary feature film, but having Covid-19 interrupt the film festival run of our latest feature film, *Children of the Inquisition: Their Stories Can Now Be Told* (childrenoftheinquisition.com) was more than a bit disconcerting. The film reveals what happened to families who were forced to convert or flee during the Spanish Inquisition and is told by their contemporary descendants, many of whom were just discovering their long-held secret Jewish roots. Luckily, we were able to create online screenings where we opened our link for 48 hours to membership organizations like community centers, houses of worship, libraries, historical societies and educational institutions.

"We then created Zoom discussion panels on topics such as intergenerational trauma, why don't we know this history, and feeling and finding. We found that these online screenings attracted three times the audiences that our sponsors usually expected, plus the film became accessible to an international audience and guest panelists as well as to homebound people who normally weren't able to attend in-person screenings. The film will be offered by PBS stations next winter.

Joe Lovett '66's latest film, Something Terrible Happened to Joey, *is an 11-minute animated film for children ages 6–96 who have experienced childhood trauma.*

"Our film *Going Blind: Coming Out of the Dark About Vision Loss* (goingblindmovie.com) is also running on PBS stations.

"Our latest film, *Something Terrible Happened to Joey* (sthtjoey.com), is an 11-minute animated film (my first animation) narrated by Rosie Perez. It is for children ages 6–96 who have experienced childhood trauma and subsequent chronic depression. The animator, London-based Oscar Wyndham Lewis, created the cell animation by an oil-on-glass painting technique. The captivating musical score is by Toronto-based Julia Vasiliev. The three collaborators worked intensely on the film for the past year due to Covid. We have only met on Zoom.

"The film also makes it clear that a traumatic incident endured by one person can affect an entire community and that it takes time — lots of time — support and hard work to lift the burden of depression off of our 'inner child.' The film also models supportive behavior and how to be a friend by just 'showing up.' During this dark period where the effects of childhood trauma are being recognized and openly talked about, I'm hoping that our film will we be one more tool to help people in their healing.

"After a festival run, *Something Terrible Happened to Joey* will be available to individuals and families, educators, therapists and counselors on our website for free."

From **Geoffrey Dutton:** "You won't find me, a forgettable ingrate, in the '66 *Columbian* or on a CU donor list. I've gotten over being omitted from the yearbook but not my aversion to donating to enormously wealthy institutions. (I favor funding those who jam pickaxes into the masonry of corporate edifices, e.g., Student Workers of Columbia - UAW.) I missed the student strikes and protest of 1968 and 1972, but even then felt they were CU's just deserts. (My meek contribution was dropping out of NROTC after protestors laid down in our line of march at the Sundial; I nearly stepped on **Mike Flug.**)

"Speaking of those times, after reading excerpts of it published at thewritelaunch.com, I'm excited to read the new novel *The Serpent Papers* by Jeff Schnader '75, set on and off campus in 1972 and capturing the zeitgeist of the CU antiwar movement. I don't know Jeff; just wanted to give a shoutout. [Editor's note: See Winter 2021–22, Class of 1975 Class Notes.]

"And speaking of novels, my second one, *Her Own Devices,* comes out in 2024. I felt compelled to write it to rehabilitate the female protagonist from my 2018 alt-political conspiracy thriller, *Turkey Shoot: He Might Not Be the Terrorist You Expected,* set in Greece and Turkey. Like Schnader's novel, it can be previewed at thewritelaunch.com.

"Please stay healthy and feel free to say hi to me at geoff@perfidy.press."

1967

Albert Zonana
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We heard from a few classmates for this issue.

David Bessman PS'72 has retired from active practice in hematology-oncology. His three

children are at mid-career, and there are seven grandchildren. He is writing a book on hematology and acquiring the physical fitness he says he wishes he'd pursued earlier.

Marty Oster PS'71: "I retired in August 2021, closing my practice of medical oncology at P&S, which I started in 1976. I had a wonderful time caring for patients, doing clinical research and teaching P&S students, interns, residents and oncology fellows. I was most fortunate to have my leaking aortic heart valve replaced at P&S one week before NYC locked down in March 2020 and have been doing well since, enjoying life in Westchester County with my lovely wife, Karen. Our three daughters and six wonderful grandkids are nearby. Busy with exercise, banging out Scott Joplin rags on the piano (more time now to practice but not getting any better!) and looking forward to the Met Museum, opera, Broadway, NYC restaurants, Columbia football games and traveling once Covid-19 simmers down. Of course, time with the grandkids is the BEST!"

Leo Mavrovitis: "I entered with the Class of 1966 and graduated with the Class of 1967 because of my father's untimely death and my own inability to complete my coursework in time. I then went on to NYU's Institute of Fine Arts to pursue a graduate degree in Egyptology. Before completing my degree, I bought an existing antique shop and have been in business for more than 50 years. I love what I do and consider myself fortunate. I have been at my second shop in the same location for more than 46 years, across from Lincoln Center on West 64th Street, and I married my longtime companion in 2010 when it became legal to marry in New York State. I am also a director of the Lincoln Square BID representing Small Businesses, as well as being secretary and treasurer of The Augustine Foundation. We fund the arts, classical guitar, and women's rights and education — all interests of our founder, Rose Augustine."

Lloyd Dumas SEAS'68, GSAS'72: "After teaching continually for 50 years at the university level, six of them at Columbia, I am professor emeritus of political economy, economics, and public policy at University of Texas at Dallas. My research and teaching has always been motivated by my deep interest in and commitment to the issues of peace and the environment as is illustrated by the nature of my nine books, which include *The Peacekeeping Economy: Using Economic Relationships to Build a More Peaceful, Prosperous, and Secure World* and *The Technology Trap: Where Human Error and Malevolence Meet Powerful Technologies*. My most recent book, published in late 2019, is *Building the Good Society: The Power and Limits of Markets, Democracy and Freedom in an Increasingly Polarized World*. I have also published more than 120 articles in 11 languages in books and journals of seven disciplines, and periodicals such as *The New York Times* and *International Herald Tribune.* I have spoken at more than 260 conferences and special lectures since 1980. I have been quoted in *Bloomberg Businessweek, Financial Times* and *Barron's,* I have appeared on more than 300 TV and radio programs around the world."

Elliot Bien LAW'71: "I practice law in San Rafael, Calif., as an appellate specialist and enjoy it as much as ever. I am active as a musician (mostly flute, clarinet and guitar) but gigs are down, thanks to Covid-19. Best of all, though, I am greatly enjoying life with my wife of 47 years, Anne Zishka, nearby sons, Jordan and Adam, and wonderful grandkids, ages 8 and 6."

David Zapp LAW'70: "I am fine, healthy and a criminal defense lawyer in New York City. My daughter is my partner and is a joy to work with. Everybody should be so lucky."

Mark Levy PS'71: "I've been a psychiatrist, psychoanalyst and latterly a forensic psychiatrist in northern California lo these many years since graduating from P&S. I'm still practicing, seeing a few individual psychiatric patients but primarily running a national forensic psychiatric and psychological practice with 20 experts including me. My wife, Liz GS'69, and I celebrated our 55th wedding anniversary. We met at Durham University in the United Kingdom when I took my junior year off from the College and studied English literature and physiology there 1965–66. Our sons, Noah '92 and Gabriel '95, live in Arcata, Calif., and NYC, respectively. Noah is an environmental consultant and has two sons. Gabriel, who has remained in NYC since graduating from CC, has worked in the music business. He is director of U.S. label relations for Amazon Music and owns a nightclub. Liz and I live in an apartment in Tiburon, having moved out of our home in Mill Valley after 47 years. We enjoy travel; cycling, including cycling abroad; political discussions; and good food."

Don Shapiro: "I've retired from the practice of medicine. My wife, Karlyn, and I divide our time between our homes in Juno Beach, Fla., and Aspen, Colo."

Herb Zarov: "I retired in 2019 from a 40-year law career. I was for many years the co-chair of litigation at Mayer Brown. After retirement, I began writing a memoir. Discovering quickly that a little embellishment added drama to my stories, I switched to fiction and have since published three short stories and been chosen a finalist in several contests. I'm very happy in retirement: traveling, gardening, playing golf, writing, spending time with my eight grandchildren, the oldest of whom are in law school and medical school, and enjoying the immense pleasures of sharing life with my wife, Alice."

Frank Tedeschi: "After a long and fruitful career in communications and publishing in the nonprofit sector here in New York, I am a volunteer at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. I'm part of the front-line team in the Visitor Experience department. We, with our staff colleagues, welcome visitors, answer content-specific questions about the collections, give suggestions about what to see and help people navigate that beautiful and gigantic space. Among our regular visitors are many students from Columbia College who, through the lens of history, seem astonishingly young! And they're bright, curious, and articulate — of course!"

Be well, all of you, and do write.

1968

Arthur Spector
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Greetings from Miami. Hope all of the class is well and thinking about our 55th reunion. The women's basketball team was sensational, as I predicted pre-season. I am sure there will be much written about this team. Send some news when you can by emailing me or by using the Class Notes webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. If you'd like to share photos that feature two or more CC alumni, please submit them directly to *CCT* using the Class Notes photo webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo. Take care!

1969

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Henry "Hank" Reichman informs his "third and final term as chair of the American Association of University Professors' (AAUP) Committee on Academic Freedom and Tenure came to an end last July. After nine years in that role I have found myself reinvented as an expert on the subject, quite timely in a context of legislation restricting teaching on 'divisive concepts' (e.g., race and gender) and renewed attacks on tenure."

Hank's *The Future of Academic Freedom* (2019) — "mainly reworked and expanded essays for the AAUP — won the 2020 American Library Association Eli M. Oboler Award for the best book published in the United States on intellectual freedom." Last October, "*Understanding Academic Freedom,* a relatively brief introduction to the topic written during pandemic confinement, was published."

He continues: "Now that the pandemic is ending, I'm starting to promote both titles at colleges and universities around the country. The pandemic also saw the birth of our second grandchild, last August, granddaughter Nina, to join our grandson, Eli (3). They live in Los Angeles, which brings us there from the San Francisco Bay Area with some frequency, and has occasioned reunions with **David Turner, Bob Merlis** and **Jim Savage.** My wife, Susan BC'70, and I avoided Covid-19, but in January 2021, I had two emergency surgeries, which included the implantation of a long-expected cardiac pacemaker. I'm happy to report that not only did I make a full recovery, but also my assisted ticker has given me some new energy."

David Turner writes: "Greetings, classmates. We've sustained and dodged Covid-19 losses and had

been hoping for a springtime sensation. But the spring I was hoping for wasn't a reprise of Spring '68, bloody war and upheaval. Of Ukrainian and Jewish ancestry, I am as affected and afflicted by the Russian war in Ukraine as I was by the Vietnam War. Zelensky, perhaps a really distant cousin, TV series producer and comedian turned heroic wartime leader, seems to have brought all that's best about fiction and satire to bear in the world of speeches, sanctions, and tanks."

David adds: "**Michael Agelasto** and I have shared our deep interest in *Against the Country*, a searing and hilarious bildungsroman by Ben Metcalf, who had a teaching position at our dear old school. I loved it so much I wrote to ask him to do another novel, but so far he hasn't come through."

Novelist **Francis Levy** observes: "Due the extreme isolation of the early months of the pandemic, I connected to others through new forms of work, collaborating on the animation of one of my books, *Erotomania: A Romance*, with Joseph Silver '95, a brilliant writer and animator. View a two-minute promotional trailer: bit.ly/3uZ7hVp."

In the argot of our youth, it's "way cool," but not for the prudish. Searching YouTube for "Erotomania" and "Francis Levy" will reveal additional interesting material.

Andrei "Andy" Markovits BUS'71, GSAS'76 reports "wonderful reactions to my memoir *The Passport as Home: Comfort In Rootlessness,* from across the world, including some from alumni who addressed a number of points that I raised in my chapter on Columbia."

Vaud Massarsky, American Civics League president, reports the "ACL produced a national 30-second public service announcement that has been sent to all American TV and cable stations." Further, he "notes that the number of Americans able to cite the three branches of government increased in 2021 to 56 percent, from 33 percent in 2006: online at bit.ly/3NKLklD. On the other hand, 40 percent of Americans are fearful of an active civil war: listenfirstproject.org. Go figure."

Vaud adds: "Reading Charles A. Beard's *An Economic Interpretation of the Constitution of the United States* in Professor Louis Hacker's 'Economics 101' woke me up from my idealistic view of the way of the world. Made me a critical thinker. Hail, Columbia! Alma mater did her job."

David "Dave" Rosedahl LAW'72, "wintering in Santa Barbara," recollects reading Thomas Wolfe and F. Scott Fitzgerald at Columbia. "Now **Paul Auster** GSAS'70."

John W. Lombardo PS'73 writes: "I've been named the chief medical officer at MLMIC (formerly standing for 'medical liability malpractice') Insurance Company, a subsidiary of Berkshire Hathaway. (I didn't say it was exciting news, just news!)"

Robert "Bob" Rabinoff has come through serious reconstructive surgery "three degenerated discs (C3–C6) replaced (with shims carved of cadaver tibias) and the whole held in place by a titanium plate screwed into the vertebrae. The engineering that goes into such surgery is quite amazing, as was the skill of the surgeon. Almost no post-operative pain. Had to be in a neck brace for six weeks, until right before Pesach. Can't turn or bend my head, as it takes time for the bones and shims to fuse. So I can't drive. I had been having a tiny bit of numbness in my hands, and I knew already that the discs in the neck were problematic. Having taken care of a dear friend for 16 years who was paralyzed from the neck down, I wasn't about to take nervous system damage lightly. It turns out there was also some spinal stenosis due to the misalignment of the vertebrae, now corrected. The first time I got up to go to the bathroom in the hospital, I realized that the lower back pain that I'd had for some years was completely gone — apparently it was due to the spinal stenosis. That was an unexpected bonus."

John Schuster writes from Shell Cove, a new coastal marina community south of Sydney, wondering if, in these heated times, people are wary of sharing deep feelings or beliefs for not wanting to stir up political conflict. He observes that Australia has similar dividing lines to the U.S., a fracture between a Liberal Party of "roughly, old-style liberal Republicans" and "a deeply left, highly machine-oriented Labor Party." Although he holds his own strong views, fighting this corner is not how John wishes to spend his time, he says, preferring to work on a final couple of big projects in history of science, due 2024.

David Sokal wishes we attend the words of Jennifer Carman at the Citizens' Climate Lobby's March 2022 monthly meeting. "We need to talk more about climate change and get Congress to act. 'Here's the situation in five points in 10 words: It's real, it's us, it's bad, scientists agree, there's hope.'" The talk can be viewed online at bit.ly/3MG2Pmm at about 2 minutes and 30 seconds from the beginning.

Henry Jackson reports having been "hooked on Barth, Heller and sot-weed too. I kicked the sot-weed habit long ago, fortunately."

Richard "Dick" Menaker writes: "I'm still playing the trumpet as seriously as I did in the Cleverest Band in the World, though reduced to pick-up gigs (mostly in abeyance during Covid-19), summer concerts with the local pops band (possible because outdoors) and a brass quintet that rehearses monthly. I've had some alumnus involvement in the effort to revive the Marching Band, which became disorganized in the past few years. Several of us, working with a cooperative athletics department and a new generation of undergraduates, are progressing toward restoring an on-field musical presence at next autumn's football games. Letters of support from classmates to the administration will be welcomed."

I note that, in 2020, after 116 years, the Columbia University Marching Band voted to *dis*band following a number of controversies that some might view as a mixture of satirical commentary and "college hijinks" but others, including the University administration at times, judged more seriously: online at bit.ly/3Keu7Ph.

Joseph Chasnoff addresses us poetically in his "Down to the River":

"We walked down to the river,/ Although my heart was torn./ My steps led toward the water's edge/ Where I had knelt before.

"When we came near the water,/ To stand where prayers are born,/ We bowed and joined hands, offering up/ Our children to the shore.

"But they gazed beyond the river./ And tumbling rapids roared!/ A boat of faith sailed thither,/ Our daring youth aboard.

"Across the racing waters,/ Within a massive storm,/ The future calls my daughters/ Whom hopes and dreams adorn.

"I walk down to the river./ Alas, my heart is torn./ My bare toes touch the water's edge./ And I kneel there once more."

Khalil Rashid (né **Harold Kent Parker**) also offers poetry. "Requiem for Sonora," by Arizona poet Richard Shelton begins: "a small child of a wind/ stumbles toward me down the arroyo/ lost and carrying no light": online at bit.ly/3uc6sJN.

"John 1:14" by Argentina's Jorge Luis Borges begins: "This page will be no less a riddle/ than those of My holy books/ or those others repeated/ by ignorant mouths/ believing them the handiwork of a man,/ not the Spirit's dark mirrors": online at bit.ly/3Kb06Qj.

My first College roommate, **David Powell,** died in January in France, where he'd been living since the 1970s. David was a respected racing journalist, lauded breeder of thoroughbreds and a laurel-winning trainer of steeplechase runners. (See "Obituaries.")

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1970

Leo Kailas
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I have had a difficult year with the loss of my brother Michael '68 in July 2021 and the loss of some younger colleagues and friends. I was also blessed with the birth of my grandson, Remy Elias, who joins his sister, Cassie, as part of our large extended family.

My friend Professor **David Lehman** wrote me the most

comforting note about the people I had lost. Many classmates have commented on David's generous spirit, which I can attest to. But now for his report: "Thanks for your message a while ago about my new book *The Mysterious Romance of Murder: Crime, Detection, and the Spirit of Noir,* which was out in May. I continue to write the 'Talking Pictures' column about classic movies for *The American Scholar.*"

My distinguished friend **Dov Zakheim** sent me this news: "I was named to the congressionally mandated National Security Commission on Emerging Biotechnology."

Professor **Fred White** LAW'73 wrote to me about the Frederic P. White Endowed Scholarship Fund, established in his hónor by other faculty members and that awards annual scholarships to worthy students at Cleveland State University, Cleveland-Marshall College of Law.

From **Lennard Davis** GSAS'77: "I haven't been in touch much. I don't know where to begin. I am a professor at the University of Illinois Chicago, where **John D'Emilio** GSAS'82 also was. His autobiography, which is due out in September and will detail his life as a young gay man, includes sections about Columbia. My autobiography, *My Sense of Silence: Memoir of a Childhood with Deafness,* includes sections about Columbia and the strike. My parents were deaf and I am a CODA (child of deaf adults). Although I came from the background, I didn't talk much or write about it until the 1990s. Before then, I wrote two books on the history and theory of the novel. I was a professor at Columbia for 10 years in the English department.

"When I started writing about disability, I published a book, *Enforcing Normalcy: Disability, Deafness, and the Body,* and was one of the founders of disability studies in the humanities. I've been doing a lot of work in that area. I'm working on a book tentatively titled *Poornography: How Those with Money Write About Those Without It,* which should come out next year. No immediate plans to retire. I stay in touch with **Ralph Bradburd** GSAS'76, an economics professor at Williams College."

James Periconi (who should have been a professor) reports: "For the last year, Jim Periconi, with the assistance of two young librarians, has been photographing and cataloguing a part of his book collection and developed a website to display it: italianamericanimprints.omeka.net. The collection is of Italian-language American imprints, reflecting the literary and cultural world that Italians created in America in their language of origin between the end of the 19th century and WWII."

Jim notes, "The site has a robust search engine, so that you can find, say, Italian-language political published in New York (or any other place) in the 1920s, or you can narrow it down to anti-fascist works or anarchist works. Or you can find all works published by any particular writer, or read one or more of the five essays that treat different areas of the book and periodical culture in order to guide your research."

Concurrent with this effort, Jim quickly determined where he wants his collection to be housed "not after I pass, but now, so these hard-to-find works can be examined by scholars," he says. So as of January, the collection has been in the Charles and Szilvia Tanenbaum Special Collections and Archives Wing of the Queens College Benjamin Rosenthal Library. Jim continues his research in the field, concentrating now on the transition from oral to literate, which is "deliciously complicated," he says, by the use of dialects by most immigrants, rather than standard Italian, and the development and wide usage of "Itaglish," a hybrid Italian-English language, all on the way to learning American English and becoming Americans. "This should keep me happily occupied for a few years," Jim notes.

Steve Boatti writes: "I've been retired from corporate law practice for some years, after a career at Merck, Dun & Bradstreet and Nielsen. My wife, Linda, a retired teacher at Riverdale Country School, and I have lived in Riverdale in the Bronx since 1978. We have two grown sons and two wonderful grandchildren. Once the pandemic is behind us, we hope to resume our travels, especially to Italy and France. Ironically, our last big trip was to Russia just before lockdown. Sadly, we might never again get to see Russia, a beautiful country despite all else. We'd welcome hearing from classmates living in or passing through New York."

Victor Hertz says: "This has been an extraordinarily difficult two years, including some deaths of friends and colleagues as well as minor problems including business tribulations. But all said and done I count myself and my family fortunate. All in all I'm just feeling the march of time and keeping on moving forward. I guess the cliché summary is: 'Alive and Well and Still Living in NYC.'"

Lewis Siegelbaum notes that he wrote about Ukraine before the current crisis. "For those interested in a rather offbeat history of my engagement with Ukraine published several months before the current war, see the journal *Region: Regional Studies of Russia, Eastern Europe, and Central Asia.* The title of the article is 'Bumping Up Against Ukraine as a Historian of Russia' (muse.jhu.edu/article/840708)."

My high school friend **Robert Launay** (always destined to be a professor) writes: "I was scheduled to travel to Moscow in April and give four lectures before stopping in Berlin on the way back to give another. In January, I was already getting cold feet, when Russian troops were amassing on the Ukrainian border, and I put it off (I hope!) until next year. I wish I had been wrong."

I love to get news from new contributors. Dr. **Peter P. Sordillo** GSAS'90 reports: "Peter P. Sordillo has edited two physics books that recently appeared: *Biophotonics, Tryptophan and Disease* and *Short Wavelength Infrared Windows for Biomedical Applications.* Peter is VP and chief science and medical officer at SignPath Pharma."

Fellow attorney **Phil Russotti** reports: "I'm still happily working, having become the senior partner of an 80-person plaintiff's personal injury firm in NYC. But more surprising is that I just had my first book published, on Valentine's Day. *The Essential Rules of Love: A Practical Guide to Creating a Harmonious, Healthy and Happy Relationship* is the story of my marriage and relationship with my third wife, Susan, which I wrote following her death from ovarian cancer in 2017 ... But equally satisfying was publishing the first in a series of children's books written with my 6-year-old granddaughter. *Stella and Her Magic Wand* is the story of a young girl living in Paris with her family during the pandemic. She saved the world from the virus with her Magic Wand ... The second book, based in London, where she saves a whale trapped in the Thames, is being illustrated and we are working on the third book, which takes place in Hawaii. The theme of the series is empowerment of young girls."

And from Professor **Lawrence Rosenwald** GSAS'79: "This [was] my last semester teaching at Wellesley College, which feels portentous; I've taught here since 1980. Not sure what happens next, though I know I want not absolute freedom but a mix of freedom and obligation, perhaps tilted a bit more toward freedom. A dazzlingly generous colleague of mine is putting together a *Festschrift* in my honor, which however preposterous has the virtue of making me feel connected to teachers, colleagues, students, friends. I was to give a formal 'final lecture' in the final session course on translation and the multilingual world, which will also be the final session I teach at the college."

Paul Spooner reminded me of the passing of **Carl Chorba** in August 2021 and of **Heyward Dotson** LAW'76 in May 2020. Paul sent me a touching obit written by Heyward's daughter Kahlillah Dotson Mosley, which I can send to anyone who emails me.

Ralph Allemano: "I'm sure I'm tardy in joining the ranks of grandfathers! My first grandchild is due any day now [as I write]. Daughter Helen and her husband have returned from 10 years in Los Angeles to set up home in London. Daughter Alice was to get married in Devon on June 1. Looks like it won't be too long before the quiet home is overrun with grandchildren!"

Finally, from **Michael Braun** LAW'73: "I retired last February. My wife and I renovated a riad in Marrakech and now she is a resident here. I spend less than six months a year here, with the rest of my time in Connecticut near my three grandchildren. I got married for the third time in September 2020. And it's working like a charm. Retirement is all that it is cooked up to be and I am enjoying myself, although I must say that getting motivated to do anything productive is difficult. Still, there is plenty to do watching my children maturing and my grandchildren growing up."



ASHLEY BLEAM

Several members of the Class of 1972 Reunion Committee met on March 17 at the Upper West Side home of Bob Grey to kick off their 50th reunion planning. Left to right: George Arnold, Jim Wilentz, Jamie Katz (seated), Richard Halperin, Jeff Howitt, Lewis Fischbein and Grey.

1971

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Hello, classmates. If you want to find out what others are doing, drop me a few lines at the email address above. I am glad to facilitate communications between classmates, as long as the communicators are willing to have me share their addresses with one another.

I recently helped **Reynaldo Bonachea** and other members of our freshman basketball team Zoom and communicate in an informal reunion. It was great to hear from people I remember from our college days. **Ron Rosenberg** spoke with me directly. He is retired. Others on the team who joined the Zoom call were **Elliot Wolfe** and **Paul Armstrong.** Rey had some emails that I don't have, so others may have been contacted as well.

John Jaeger had a small letter published in *The New York Times*'s "Metropolitan Diary" section on September 26, 2021. It was quite good.

Michael Straus GSAS'09 checks in to say he practiced law for 25 years and then changed his occupation to managing investment funds. However, he says he has always had the desire to return to the classic literature and works of the Core Curriculum. He felt with further maturity and added life lessons he would approach them with a different perspective than a 17-year-old. In order to read them in their original form, Michael learned Greek and Latin subsequent to graduating from Columbia. He also speaks Spanish. He pursued his interest in Latin and Greek to the extent that he earned an M.A. in Greek and Latin from Columbia and an M.Phil. in Greek at the University of Cambridge. He has published translations not only from Greek but also from Spanish (his second language). His books are available on Amazon. In 2021, Michael successfully defended a Ph.D. thesis at the University of Aberdeen that crosses over a number of fields (philosophical linguistics, theology, history, philology and translation theory), with the degree conferred to him last Thanksgiving Day. He is not sure yet whether this ends his intellectual journey and will allow him some actual form of retirement. He says he doubts it.

Bill Christophersen TC'78 recently published his fifth collections of poems, *Why the Gods Don't Get It*. He describes his poem as noir. I am quoting him as to the inspiration for his works, and I think it gives you an idea of his mindset. "I began writing in college, intrigued, baffled and provoked by *A Cinch: Amazing Works from the Columbia Review*, an anthology assembled by the editors of the College literary magazine. I didn't know what to make of most of the poems. But I got it that my contemporaries had jumped off the commuter train of formalist postwar poetry and were dancing on the third rail. I followed their lead until, eventually, I became less concerned with making it new, as the modernist dictum urged, than with making it real." Bill draws on growing up in the Bronx, and living on the Upper West side.

William Barr GSAS'79, the two-time Attorney General of the United States, had his book, *One Damn Thing After Another,* published in March. It was reviewed in *The New York Times* by Jennifer Szalai with the headline "William P. Barr's Memoir Is Part Lawyerly Defense, Part Culture-War Diatribe." Szalai wrote, "In 'One Damn Thing After Another,' the former attorney general suggests that Republicans move past Donald Trump and his 'madcap rhetoric,' but saves his harshest words for the former president's critics."

Anyone who attended Columbia Reunion (June 9–12) is welcome to communicate their activities to me. I was not able to directly participate, but would love to keep classmates informed.

We as a class are still growing in so many ways. We should share the joy of new metiers and experiences gained through maturing. We are a class that symbolized an era. We march on.

1972

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Reid Baron, who recently published *All But One: A Collection of Stories and a Novella,* reflected on his time at Columbia: "I think it might be appropriate first to say with gratitude that my family and I spent a total of $200 over four years, during which time I soaked in a reasonable portion of the vast Western intellectual heritage, still a priceless treasure. I was also fortunate to befriend brilliant and talented classmates, great friends who advanced the learning process according to the strategy of the College. I guess my homage has been paid to our education by never abandoning the processes of reading, writing and searching conversation. This is what I took away from Columbia, rather than a stellar ambition. It has been impossible to forget Edward Said's lectures, or my independent study with Michael Wood, for example. The hours spent devouring Shakespeare's work with Ted Tayler and writing imitations of beloved poets with Kenneth Koch likewise stand out.

"If our class was special in a specific way, I think it might be in arriving at Columbia in fall '68, after the strike. When Dean Carl Hovde '50 welcomed us, someone stood up and cried out, 'He's not telling you about the IDA,' or something like that. However our sentiments might have developed later, I recall that moment of initiation not being overly popular among the freshmen present. Mark Rudd '69 greeted me genially on my second day on campus — a fleeting instant. Nevertheless, the brazen Vietnam War continued throughout our years, as did rightful protests. I was supportive, but not great in crowds. The war; civil rights struggles; sex, drugs and rock and roll; Bob Dylan; soul; jazz; and French New Wave movies composed our atmosphere, surrounding our learning. But I don't think the Class of '72 can claim this uniquely; I think graduates a couple of years younger or a couple of years older would have had similar influences. OK, fellas? The effects for us? Perhaps a more concentrated political consciousness (of whatever ilk), an adventurous nature, a touch of psychedelia, creativity, idealism and an ability to connect our education to the today. We learned to keep reading for hours and also developed a refined alertness and appreciation for assorted items not included in the curriculum. Many in our class won't agree foursquare with my rendition. Some were less distracted by the fanciful zeitgeist, I'm sure. These are my abridged reflections. So much has been left out, not only in the interest of brevity, but to protect the innocent as well as the guilty."

Jonathan Freedman, whom I think is our only Pulitzer Prize winner (though **Sean Wilentz** was a finalist), shares his own reflections: "The Class of '72 started in fall 1968, a tumultuous time following the 'On strike, shut it down!' protests of the previous spring. None of our classmates really knew if and when classes would resume on Morningside Heights. About 48 years later, during the Covid-19 lockdown, Columbia students faced uncertainty about when and if they could attend in-person classes. There the parallels might end, but we 50-year alums are happy that there were to be in-person celebrations in June 2022. We were hoping that there will be something special to mark our climactic years, 1968–72, when we attended Humanities and Contemporary Civilization seminars in Hamilton Hall within earshot of megaphones blasting anti-Vietnam War and anti-racism messages on the mall. Which side are you on? We could not hide in an ivory tower while questions of life and death, war and peace, civil rights versus law and order faced us on the streets.

"Nearly a third of our class didn't finish in four years. Yet it was a special time to attend Columbia and take classes at Barnard. Fittingly, the horror film auteur Alfred Hitchcock gave our Commencement address, contending in a sepulchral voice that he was actually a farmer raising 'goose flesh.' Each of us has a story (or several) to tell! Together, we constitute a weird mix tape of Jimi Hendrix, Sha Na Na, Joan Báez, Allen Ginsberg '48, Kenneth Koch and Kate Millett; and political, anarchistic, intellectual, psychedelic, cynical, idealistic, yippie to yuppie, 'Me Generation' that is reaching the generative stage of life. Speaking for myself, a Colorado boy whose mother told him to wear a suit to freshman invocation and who felt like an idiot when his tuition check was stolen, Columbia remains my intellectual/literary alma mater, with crocuses bursting from the gritty ice in the glorious springtime!"

And **Rich Halperin** PH'85 notes, "As we entered the approach to our 50th reunion in June, it seemed about time to send a long overdue update. I went on to medical school in Boston, deferring the rock 'n' roll dream because of a scarily low draft number (more on the rock 'n' roll dream later). Not surprisingly, the political and social atmosphere of the College years had a profound effect on me. I did my residency in pediatrics at Boston City Hospital and subsequently spent my career involved in primary care pediatrics in urban centers, working predominantly with disadvantaged children and families. I returned to NYC after residency and spent seven years in the Montefiore system in the Bronx. I earned an M.P.H. in 1985 from Columbia while working at the hospital.

"Our growing family prompted a move to New Haven a few years later, where I practiced pediatrics from 1987 until this year. My practice evolved into one with a large proportion of children with developmental and behavioral issues, and I found this quite rewarding. My wife, Patti (Simmons College '73), and I raised our family of four children in Guilford, Conn. They are now all doing well, with varied careers, and are all parents themselves. We have six grandchildren, three in the NYC area and three in Colorado. Life threw us a curveball when we had twins (a boy and a girl) when thinking we were going to have a third child. Amazingly, our twins both became parents on July 4, 2021, with our daughter having a girl and our son welcoming a boy. It's like twins 2.0.

"Now back to rock 'n' roll. During our Columbia years, I often jammed with **Mark Schultz, John Schwartzberg, Doug Altabef, Bob Markison** and **Jeff Davidson SEAS'72**. We called ourselves The Young Cretins back in the day and were best known, if we were known at all, for such classics as 'The I.M. Pei Blues' and 'The Mama Joy Blues.' Fast forward a few decades. Mark, John and I have been playing again for the last 21 years as part of The Regressions. We are a large band (10 musicians and six to eight singers), covering classic rock and Motown favorites. We played at our 30th reunion in 2002 and were hoping to work out a return engagement this June. I would like to think that we put on quite a show. I was very much looking forward to reconnecting with classmates in June."

I have the sad duty of acknowledging someone who won't be with us for reunion in June. **Mariano Rey**, who went to NYU Medical School and spent the rest of his career in cardiology at NYU, rising to the rank of professor and senior associate dean, passed away on February 19, 2022. Mariano and I met during Freshman Week, and in the next four years I never met a nicer person or one who was more dedicated to relieving the suffering of those who suffered most in the world. A more complete obituary can be found in this issue's "Obituaries" section. But I am sad to think that he won't be able to join us one last time.

Speaking of our 50th reunion, planning had been underway since the winter for what we hoped would be a wonderful weekend. See the nearby photo of many of the members of Reunion Committee, gathered at **Bob Grey**'s apartment. I very much hope to have seen you in June.

1973

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Gonna be 70 soon, but most of us have been there, done that. I don't feel that old — I hope that feeling is widespread among CC'73!

Maurice Peterson's mural of Ruby Bridges on a concrete wall in Pittsfield, Mass., is more than 20 ft. high; "Walk With Her" is adapted from a 1964 Norman Rockwell painting, and is a celebration of the Jubilee Hill neighborhood there. "Pops," as he is known, completed it last year. [Editor's note: See bit.ly/3uP8luI.]

Not to be out-Petersoned, **Gregory Peterson** LAW'85's book of New York photographs taken during the pandemic, *New York: Stilled Life*, captures the beauty of an NYC without people in its iconic public spaces. Well worth a look-through. [Editor's note: See bit.ly/3NIWK9r.]

Robert Abdoo recently retired after 38 years as a solo primary-care internist in Westchester County, N.Y. Rob says he's "now onto a continually rewarding life with my wife, two children and four grandchildren."

Marc Gross is senior counsel at Pomerantz and was honored by T'ruah, the Rabbinic Call for Human Rights, for his social justice and philanthropic work. He recalls, once again, **Phil Schaap:** "My cousin was a high school friend of Phil's, and connected us as we began our freshman year. As with many others, we bonded over jazz, though I was more drawn to the small quartets of Miles Davis and John Coltrane than the big Count Basie bands. So Phil 'educated' me one afternoon, first playing *Charlie Parker with Strings,* and then Duke Ellington's *Newport 1958*. What a gift to us all."

May we all keep teaching. Hasta.

1974

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As I "pen" this column in early spring, the "talking heads" on the business channels are making incessant reference that we have entered an echo of the economic conditions of the 1970s. While the specter of stagflation is new to many, members of our class are all too familiar with the then-new phenomenon that started as we first set foot on Morningside Heights. The resulting weak economy and high unemployment helps explain why so many of us ended up in graduate or professional school rather than entering the labor force. As many of us move into the "last innings" of our careers, it seems unfortunate that we are once again facing these challenging economic times. Both bouts of economic malaise were at least partially caused by oil shocks, excessive fiscal spending and a loose monetary policy. Seems like our political leaders didn't learn much in the intervening 50 years!

Once again I have the sad task of logging the deaths of another two classmates. News came of the passing of **Raymond Reed** on February 15, 2022, in Los Angeles due to complications of a recent stroke. Ray came to Morningside Heights from Oklahoma and earned a law degree in 1983 from Whittier College School of Law in California and an M.B.A. from UCLA. Various classmates tell us Ray was practicing law in Los Angeles representing entertainment clients. While on campus he was a member of the varsity football team and an active member of the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity.

A *New York Times* obituary alerted us to the death of **Dan Dolgin** LAW'81 on February 28, 2022, in New York City, from a progressive neurological disease. Some classmates might remember Dan as the business manager of *Spectator* but far more knew him as an affable intellectual with a wry wit. A few years after the Law School he co-founded a firm in Manhattan that eight years later became the New York branch of McDermott, Will & Emery. While Dan remained head of its New York office, he was gradually transitioning to pursue the life of a private investor in a range of businesses (commercial printing services, radio broadcasting, the web-based distribution of chemicals and real estate, to name a few). In 1997 he co-founded a not-for-profit corporation now known as PowerMyLearning, based on his vision of using home computers to support low-income student learning by linking students, parents and teachers into what he called a "learning triangle." In 2015 Dan and his wife, Loraine Gardner, received the Outstanding Community Service Award from Community Impact, a community service organization at Columbia. Among Dan's many other philanthropic endeavors was as director of the Pushcart Prize Fellowships, which grant literary awards from Pushcart Press. He also was a member of the Board of Directors of the Columbia College Alumni Association.

Having reported on three classmates succumbing to progressive neurological diseases in less than six months (**Chris Hansen, Brian Phillips** and now **Dan Dolgin**), this seemed more than coincidental so I reached out to one of our own who might shed some light on this phenomenon: Dr. **Mark Mehler,** chair of the Saul R. Korey Department of Neurology and director of the Institute for Brain Disorders and Neural Regeneration, both at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in the Bronx. He gave us good news and bad news (caveat: my interpretation of Mark's erudition is undoubtedly lacking). He said that the Class of '74 has moved out of the 40–55-year age category, where many serious diseases (like cancer) often tend to peak. The bad news is that the 65–85-year age cohort is when we are more susceptible to what he called the "classic diseases of aging" (like neurological afflictions such as Parkinson's, Alzheimer's and other progressive neurological diseases). So keep in mind Columbia College's official school song, "Sans Souci" (French for "without worry"): "What if tomorrow brings sorrow or anything other than joy … Tomorrow's the future still, this is today!"

One last morbid mention before more cheery news. A short note came in from **Dewey Cole** (who lives in Brooklyn) that said he keeps a photograph from our 45th reunion of the list of classmates who are no longer with us. "It reminds me how lucky I was to have spent four years with some extraordinary people and how much fuller my life is for having done so."

Amen.

"My son is making history," posted **Jon Mangana** (who lives in Newport News, Va.) on Facebook. His son, Adam, started the first virtual reality charter school, Optima Classical Academy. Emphasizing classical education (writing, reading and what we at Columbia call the "Great Books"), he has enrolled 1,300 students in a program for grades 3–8 this August in Florida with plans to expand both geographically and the grades served. Part of the school day involves virtual reality technology (with each student having an avatar) where they can do field trips into the ocean or trips to Mars. Says Adam, "We want to give all students the chance to get a world-class education." It is hard to do justice to this new approach in a short paragraph; best to google "Optima Classical Academy."

Following retirement a few years ago from a long career at Merrill Lynch, **Kevin Ward** left the New Jersey suburbs to live full time on Long Beach Island, at the Jersey shore. As cold weather approached last fall, he rented a home in Palm Beach, Fla., with dreams of spending occasional evenings playing '70s classics on the pianos at bars frequented by aging baby boomers. Covid-19 spoiled his days as a "lounge lizard" this year, but at least he was near his Columbia buddy **Will Willis** (who lives in Palm Beach Gardens). You will have to wait for future columns to learn more about what each of them are up to.

One tidbit I will pass on is that Kevin and his wife, Maureen, admit to playing pickleball, and what says "I'm retired" better than playing pickleball in Florida?

Columbia's Black Alumni Council recently awarded **Ted Gregory** (who lives in Morningside Heights) the Black Alumni Heritage Award, joining recipients such as former U.S. Attorney General Eric H. Holder Jr. '73, LAW'76. Ted is senior advisor to the Columbia Alumni Association on diversity, equity and inclusion. In making the award, the council said, "Ted's contributions to Columbia, and Black alumni, are unparalleled."

Some quick notes: While surfing through the channels this past January I saw the face of **Richard Briffault** (a professor at the Law School) pop up on NY1 talking about gerrymandering in the NYS redistricting. After a gap year in Israel, the daughter of **Abbe Lowell** LAW'77 (a Washington, D.C., lawyer living in Potomac, Md.) is now attending Georgetown University. After 35 years in Europe, **Les Bryan** JRN'75 has retired from the Navy and moved to Framingham, Mass. With the birth of Samuel last fall, **Scott Kunst** (retired and living in Ann Arbor, Mich.) now has four grandsons from his two sons. Dr. **Steve Blumenthal** (retired in Portland, Maine) now has two granddaughters (the latest is Evie, born in February). Alison Klayman, daughter of **Barry Klayman** (a Delaware lawyer who lives in Wynnewood, Pa.), has a new film on Netflix: *White Hot: The Rise & Fall of Abercrombie & Fitch.*

From the "old dog learning new tricks" file: **Alan Goodman** in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., tells us: "After a 40-plus-year career in music, TV and theater, I've launched Chapter 2 in electric health records."

Before getting into the new venture, it's best to do a quick recap of Chapter 1: In 1981, Alan was part of the team that launched MTV (along with fellow Columbia radio alum Fred Seibert '73). Alan and Fred resigned from MTV to consult with Nickelodeon, which was having challenges finding audiences for its quality kids' programming. It must be here that Alan hooked up with **Albie Hecht** (producer of Worldwide Biggies and living in Montclair, N.J.) to create several television series.

Now to Chapter 2: Alan says a few years ago he got excited about blockchain technology and how he could use it to make financial tools for the 1.7 billion people in the world who are unbanked or underbanked. He writes, "We were busy with that when Covid-19 hit. In lockdown we realized we could convert what we had built to encrypt medical testing for Covid." Their product is named TESTD and is now widely used in nursing homes, hospitals and other high-volume locations. Says Alan, "I find this all fascinating and I love what I'm working on. Never would have predicted this career for me, but here we are!"

There you have it. Amid the sorrow of losing some old friends we see the birth of grandchildren and new ventures (often with a digital aspect to them). Reports of retirement seem surprisingly muted, but I expect we will see an acceleration in this direction. Keep those emails and notes flowing in so we can all learn of what the class is up to as our 50th reunion approaches in just two years!

1975

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[Editor's note: *CCT* was saddened to learn this past winter of the May 4, 2021, passing of longtime class correspondent **Randy Nichols** TC'79. Nichols helmed the column for 25 years, starting in 1996. You can read more about him in "Obituaries." Starting with the Fall 2022 issue, **Robert "Bob/Waz" Wazevich** will take over as class correspondent. Please send your news to him going forward by email (bwazevich@gmail.com) or by using the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.]

CCT received several notes this issue. Thank you to those who responded to our call for news!

Mike Hirsh writes: "I write this to say hello to my fellow grads. I stay in touch with a tight group, including crewmates **John DiMartino, Jim King,** William Rigby '74 and **Henry Billingsley.** Then there's my BFF, Mike Trock GS'75, and Richard Perniciaro '74, both lightweight football players who lived in John Jay near our oarsmen nest. These friendships I was fortunate enough to make are the most profound of my life. We reconnect intermittently, but it is as if no time has passed. I am blessed to have met these great guys.

"I have made New England's second-largest city — Worcester, Mass. — my home. I am a pediatric surgeon and a professor of surgery and pediatrics in the UMass Chan School of Medicine. I am also the assistant vice provost for health and wellness promotion for the med school and the director of the Division of Public Health, and chief pandemic information officer for the City of Worcester. I have been happily married to my amazing wife, Julianne, for 42 years, and have two wonderful kids — Scott, an information technology expert, and Estelle, a psychiatry resident at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. It's been a wonderful life that started in many ways on College Walk and in the shells on the Harlem River. Could not be more grateful."

Glenn Spencer Bacal writes: "I practice intellectual property law in Scottsdale with my partner, Sean Garrison LAW'92. My wife, Amy, our office manager, has some NYC chops, having worked briefly for *The New York Times* before settling into a prior career working for a congressman and two governors. Every now and then I hear from or reach out to classmates, and it's always nice to hear from others in the Class of '75. There are many colorful characters I would love to hear from again who started with the Class of '75 but who don't show up in alumni reports. One is Tom, from Tuscola,



KEN HOWITT '76

CCT class correspondent Ken Howitt '76 hosted a "Class of 1976 Two-Dimensional Reunion" with his classmates' cutouts from the attendance-limited 2022 basketball games. Howitt and his cutouts traveled through Morningside Heights and Hoboken posing for pictures. On March 14, they sat at his dining room table with his 1932 Wedgewood Columbia plates in the background. Clockwise from bottom left: Jim Berquist, Howitt, Steve Davis, John Connell and Bryan Alix.

Texas, who brought a downed NYC traffic light to his dorm room in John Jay our first year, and who joined the Columbia crew, which promptly hit a body while rowing."

José Diaz is the author of a "best-selling memoir, translated into six languages and distributed worldwide by Amazon, *From the Streets of New York City,* under the name José Cheo Díaz."

Steven Krasner writes: "I was a co-captain of the baseball team and sports editor of *Spectator.* I enjoyed a 33-year career as a sports writer for the *Providence (R.I.) Journal* newspaper, the last 22 of which I covered the Boston Red Sox on a daily basis before retiring in 2008. I covered many a Red Sox-Yankee game in New York, and, of course, on each trip I had to journey to the Columbia campus for nostalgia's sake before eating dinner at V&T and having dessert at The Hungarian Pastry Shop!

"As a sports writer, I have stories. I was there when the ball went through Bill Buckner's legs, interviewing him after Game 6 of the 1986 World Series against the Mets. I was there when the Red Sox broke the Curse of the Bambino (sorry, Yankee fans). I was there when an earthquake interrupted the 1989 World Series in San Francisco-Oakland. I was there when Doug Flutie threw his Hail Mary pass in Miami. Super Bowls. No-hitters. Fights in the locker room. I was there. I have stories.

"Since my retirement from the newspaper, I have been conducting interactive, collaborative classroom writing workshops and professional development sessions as 'Nudging the Imagination' around the country. I'm also a published children's author of picture books and nonfiction baseball books, one of which, *Play Ball Like the Pros: Tips for Kids from 20 Big League Stars,* won a Parents' Choice Award. In addition, I am executive director of Rhode Island Write on Sports, a nonprofit that runs after-school and summer sports writing camps for underserved middle-school students (this is our ninth year!). I have taught freshman writing classes at Bryant University in Rhode Island and I am a voter for the Baseball Hall of Fame. Best of all, I am 'Papa Stevie' to five grandchildren — enough for an infield with me pitching! My wife of 44 years, Sue Oclassen, and I are blessed!"

1976

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Switched to Amazon Music to inspire my writing. Recently, I have discovered the Caramoor Center for Music and the Arts in Katonah, N.Y. I went to a Stephen Sondheim 90th birthday concert prior to his death, rescheduled due to the pandemic. Then to a great venue there: The Music Room, which seats about 200. I have seen two classical piano recitals — one with Stephen Hough and the other with Michelle Cann. As a result, I am listening to classical piano music for this column — solo piano works by Edvard Grieg.

The winddown to the pandemic seems underway, but I am still being careful. As a season ticket holder, I went to a handful of Columbia basketball games, both men and women. I very much enjoyed the post-season Women's National Invitation Tournament run of the women's team. They are graduating only one senior, so the future is bright for that squad.

Since there was limited attendance early in the season, **Steve Davis** LAW'79 jumped on the opportunity to support the teams by purchasing a cutout of himself in Columbia swag mounted on an easel. Steve asked me to email all of you to join our 1976 section. Five brave '76ers were featured in the stands for both men's and women's varsity games. In addition to Steve and me, **John Connell, Bryan Alix** and **Jim Berquist** made up our Fab Five.

At the conclusion of the season, each cutout was autographed by both squads. At the last home game, regular attendance was allowed, and I picked up all the '76 cutouts, because I had an idea. (By the way, if you hear me say "I have an idea" based on the following story, please check me into a local facility.)

I decided that since we did not have an in-person reunion last year and instead had a virtual one, I would invent another type of reunion too — "A Two-Dimension Reunion." I took all the cutouts with me after the last game.

First, I took them all to Tom's and posed them outside the front door. Next, I got in my car and the **John Connell** cutout insisted on driving back to Hoboken. Arriving in Hoboken around midnight, I took the cutouts to Sinatra Park and took a picture next to the Frank Sinatra statue with the NYC skyline in the background. Back at my apartment, the cutouts and I posed while having drinks at my dining room table (with my collection of 1932 Columbia Wedgewood plates in my china cabinet; see the nearby photo!), at my piano with John (the former Kingsman) singing Columbia songs and finally to my reading room to read Columbia books.

The next morning, we returned to the Hoboken waterfront for more photos and a view of the skyline. Then back home to pack up the cutouts and send to classmates. I created a PDF with all the pictures and a narrative. Interestingly, John, Bryan, Jim and Steve all preferred the two-dimensional reunion to seeing me in person. Go figure. If you did not see the PDF (emailed to everyone), please email me and I will send you a copy.

That reunion was great fun for me and makes me want to see all of you in person soon. Please get in touch if you are coming to New York, so we can grab at least a cup of coffee. I hope to see a lot of you at Homecoming Weekend with the football team playing Dartmouth on Saturday, October 22.

Now, for some updates:

Greg Niemi reported from Florida: "After selling business computer software across much of the eastern United States for 30 years, I retired at the end of 2015. My wife and I live in Tampa, where we enjoy the beaches, parks and good weather. Our son lives in Boston with his wife and our daughter lives near Charlotte close to our grandsons, their partners and our two great-grandchildren."

Joe Graif BUS'78 moved into a new home for his and his wife's retirement and they formed The Susan A. & Joseph N. Graif Foundation "to nurture, support and promote the musical performing arts in our home county of Isle of Wight (don't you just love the Beatles reference?) here in Virginia." Their retirement home "includes a two-story music room to accommodate our large, digital, electronic theatre organ and our Bösendorfer Grand. Our goal is to host five concerts each year (every two months from April through December) in our home (50–75 people), featuring both world-class and local talent, including promising youth performers. The concerts will include organ, piano, solo instrumentalists and vocalists."

Rich Feldman, as reported in the Spring/Summer 2021 issue, was cleaning out his Westchester home and sent an update: "Sold the house we built 30 years ago in Chappaqua and moved full time to Amagansett. Enjoying beach life with family and friends while continuing remote law practice. Greatly miss Manhattan but surviving the pandemic."

Gary Lehman BUS'80, SIPA'80 updated with the following: "Reporting in from Essex Junction, Vt. (near Burlington). Moved here a year ago to be closer to grandchildren. Had been working for the Transportation Security Administration, but I was on first shift (3:30 a.m. start time) … that wasn't cutting it. Working now for the Federal Emergency Management Agency as a reservist and am certifying as a contracting officer. Recently returned from a six-week deployment focusing on increasing Covid-19 vaccinations and boosters for underrepresented and underserved communities. I believe we made a big, positive difference!"

Linda and **Dennis Goodrich** traveled to the United Kingdom last fall to finally celebrate daughter Katey's wedding in person. The whole family was there. Quite unexpectedly, Mika did not make the trip.

Colleen and **John Connell** "checked off a bucket list item with a 10-day road trip down the Pacific Coast Highway from San Francisco to Los Angeles, where we also visited our son, Will '19, an associate editor at ESPN. The weather and scenery cooperated."

I saved a special update for last. **Hasan Bazari** GSAS'79 and Wilson Ko '78 have teamed up in a worthy cause to honor former dean Patsy Geisler GSAS'79, the longtime Dean of Students Office pre-med advisor, and to benefit Columbia College undergraduates. Their generosity will establish the Patricia Dykema Geisler Scholarship in perpetuity by awarding financial aid scholarships to qualifying undergraduates. I am on board with some of the planning because right after our graduation, I moved into the apartment building on Morningside Heights where Patsy still lives. I stayed for six years. Patsy was my pre-marriage advisor (not pre-med), as she taught me to bake from scratch (no Bisquick!), encouraged me to read mystery novels by Rex Stout and has been a personal influencer ever since.

Hasan shared his thoughts in co-establishing this fund: "It is not often that any one person stands out as a model to generations of students who passed through the institution. We are deeply indebted to Patsy for understanding our passion and unleashing it on the world. It was her faith that allowed that to happen." Hasan added: "The future of the world depends on attracting the very best students. Although they start out feeling imperfect, they are the perfect Columbia graduates. This award will stand in perpetuity to honor the potential of all students independent of their roots."

I enjoy publicizing efforts like this, and personally will contribute, because Patsy is still impacting me every day (being celiac now and still baking, I recall her lessons every time I step into my kitchen). If you are interested in participating, please email me and I will put you in touch with the right people.

A final word about another class correspondent, Gerald "Jerry" Sherwin '55. Jerry was my advertising mentor in 1975 in an Alumni Office initiative. He passed away on January 29, 2022, and is missed greatly. Columbia produces people who achieve great things, but Jerry's greatness was in helping all he mentored understand how to create greatness and support the College and University. He was and remains one of a kind. [Editor's note: See "Obituaries" at college.columbia.edu/cct.]

So, that's it! Classical music was very soothing and the rest of my day will sail by, floating on the memories that my friends still create.

Hope to see you at Homecoming or anytime you are in the area. The boat ride from Manhattan to Hoboken is fantastic in the summer!

Stay safe, stay well and stay in touch!

1977

David Gorman
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"I send greetings to classmates, and wish them all the best as we (with continued good fortune) emerge from the Covid-19 doldrums and tragedy," writes **Ira Gottlieb** and, not being able to put it better than this, I second his wish, as warmly as possible. Ira goes on to mention, "I continue to practice union-side labor law with the same firm I've worked at since 1986," that being Bush Gottlieb, though he has now moved house from Santa Monica to Santa Barbara, about 90 miles up the coast.

Artie Gold also wrote in, to report a "Columbia moment" in March, "listening to **David Rothkopf** speaking with [former president of Estonia] Toomas Ilves '76 on the Deep State Radio podcast concerning the Russian invasion of Ukraine."

Ron Fried and **Jim Reiman** report publications. Jim's book, *Negotiation Simplified: A Framework and Process for Understanding and Improving Negotiating Results,* came out in February. He adds that "**Jon Lukomnik,** a fellow 8 Carman alum, was kind enough to write a testimonial, for which I'm deeply grateful." Meanwhile, December is the publication date for Ron's book — his fourth — *Frank Costello: A Novel.*

A year ago, this column reported on the saga of Dewald Strauss, father of **Jerry Strauss,** now recognized as the subject of a portrait by Alice Neel, "The Fuller Brush Man." An article was then devoted to this story in the Spring/Summer 2021 issue of *CCT.* But that was not the end. Jerry informs us, "In November, I was featured on the Humans of New York platform on Instagram and Facebook, garnering 1.1 million likes and more than 14,000 comments. More recently, I completed a recording session for the audio guide for the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco's Alice Neel exhibition." As of May, Jerry was also expecting to give a livestreamed talk about his father and the painting at the de Young Museum in San Francisco.

Please share your news and updates by emailing me or by using the Class Notes webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. If you'd like to share photos, please submit them directly to *CCT* using the Class Notes photo webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo.

1978

Matthew Nemerson
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While we had a great response as usual, it would be exciting to unlock the key to motivating the hundreds of you who have never responded in our 43 years of columns. People really do care about hearing from more of the class and many of you privately comment about the memories that are triggered when new people surface in *CCT.* So, please think about sharing news for the first time next time.

Thank you for the many notes on Russia's war against Ukraine. Given the delay in the publishing of this column I'm going to hold them for now.

Bob Crochelt opens our column: "Not much new to add here, as Northern California moves from spring to summer. Folks have discarded their masks and are going on about their business. My wife, Dr. DL Smith, and I are working away in Ukiah as before. Hoping that Covid-19 is indeed over but fearing that it may not be totally gone."

Columbia has always been well represented in show business and **Henry Aronson,** in Brooklyn, begins our round-up, reporting: "Now that theatre is returning, I've gotten busy with projects that were postponed by the pandemic. This past spring I was music director of a funny new show, *Pants! The Jimmy Pants Musical,* which is being developed by the York Theatre Company, and I am beginning rehearsals for Sarah Silverman's *The Bedwetter: Stories of Courage, Redemption, and Pee,* which will be a full production this spring. We are aiming for a Broadway production in the fall.

"I'm proud to be sustaining my career in theatre, which began Off-Off-Broadway while I was an undergrad!"

Stuart Kricun continues to keep things legal working at a big TV company in California, saying, "I'm celebrating my 17th year working at Disney!

"My kids are both growing up quickly. Daughter Arianna is 17 and son Jordan (15) is taller than I am. This past spring my wife, Cipora, and I traveled to Santa Barbara to celebrate my 66th birthday."

Sort of in show biz, **Al Feliu** sent this note from New Rochelle: "Thank you for your persistence in attempting to herd a bunch of aged, senior citizen cats."

You have no idea!

Al goes on, "I continue my practice as an employment arbitrator, mediator and independent investigator.

"After a 37-year hiatus, Ken Turtoro, a high school friend and the best man from my wedding, and I are occasionally performing again as Two's Company, an acoustic duo. I need to have a backup plan in case this lawyer gig does not work out.

"My wife, Susan Hobart, is in her 32nd year at Shearman & Sterling, helping to keep the world banking system functional. Daughter Julie

is engaged, with a wedding date this October, and son Dan recently moved back into town with his wife, Juliana. My other son, Greg, is in marketing and lives in Brooklyn. I'm looking forward some grandkids."

Another traditionally strong Columbia industry is publishing, and our class is no exception. **Edward Rosenfeld** GSAS'80 heads up Rosenfeld Media in New York City, and writes, "We are the international leader in 'user experience' books, conferences and training.

"My partner, Karyn Grossman Gershon, is CEO of Project Kesher, which supports women and children in Ukraine, Belarus and Russia. She has been working 12 hours a day with her network on the ground bringing her people to safety.

"My daughter was to get married in May and my younger kid is getting their degree in mechanical engineering at CMU."

Editor-in-chief of W.W. Norton & Co. **John Glusman** GSAS'80, of New York, tells us, "We have several books coming from Columbia professors, among them, a reissue of Saidiya Hartman's first book, *Scene of Subjection: Terror, Slavery, and Self-Making in Nineteenth-Century America (Race and American Culture);* Chris Wiggins and Matthew Jones's book, *How Data Happened*; and David Hajdu's major new work of non-fiction on AI and the arts.

"Working remotely during the pandemic I've found the time both challenging and enormously productive.

"Son Graham '19, LAW'23 is a third-year at the Law School; daughter Isabel graduated with a psychology master's from the New School; and our eldest, Jenny, is a pediatrics resident at Chicago's Advocate Children's Hospital.

"We're a real Columbia family. My mother and father taught at P&S. My wife attended Barnard and she and I both earned a master's from GSAS.

"Looking back, it is clear that Columbia and the Core Curriculum was essential to all of our thinking and development in each of the fields we chose."

It seems retirement is the new hot topic, and we'll start with those who have thrown in knee replacements as well. **Billy Holden** PH'84 writes, "I finally retired as an epidemiologist after a career at Novartis, Sanofi Pasteur and Vertex Pharmaceuticals and then at Mount Sinai Medical School. My wife, Karen Hart (Brandeis and Fordham Law), also retired as a lawyer, in June. We plan to travel more and enjoy our new free time after I'm fully rehabilitated from a knee operation.

"Son Bryce has an NYU sports management degree, but somehow is with a healthcare consulting firm, and daughter Hannah recently finished Sarah Lawrence and has spent time in London writing and working in marketing for the drug company AbbVie. My stepchildren are Julie GSAS'22, with a Columbia master's in anthropology, now with the Topos Partnership, and Robert, a recently married corporate lawyer from Fordham Law."

Marvin Ira Charles Siegfried, from Oceanside, N.Y., updates us on his own contribution to the multigenerational living together trends, "In the last column, I wrote that our kids were living with us while their house was being renovated, probably through December. Well, I was overly optimistic. They actually moved out in March. My wife and I are slowly getting the house back to normal. I say slowly because I am also recuperating from a partial knee replacement. Guess all the years of paddle ball, softball and biking finally caught up with me. I'm a little younger than many of us — turned 64 last December — but (with apologies to The Beatles) my wife still needs me and feeds me. Retirement is surprisingly busy, which is good. Hope classmates are doing well, and I'm looking forward to our next reunion!"

Complaining as someone who thought he had had a knee replacement, **Monte Nussbaum** PS'82, also from Oceanside, writes, "I had a rude awakening when I was told I needed to sign up for the *senior citizen* flu shot!

"I will only consider retiring when the stress at work becomes greater than the stress at home, and that won't be from wife Myrna Keller BC'78, but I guess I'm worried about the stress of boredom from not working.

"We are both very proud of our kids: Shanna, a physical therapist; Avi, working for the NBA; Ayelet, a nurse practitioner; and Daniella, an anesthesiologist."

Continuing this theme, **Thomas Reuter** SEAS'79, notes, "My wife, Grace DeSimone Reuter BC'78, and I have retired, and we are searching for where to settle. Son Matt '07 is an attending at the Vanderbilt Rehabilitation Center of Newport Hospital. Ah, The Gilded Age lingers! Tim '11 works in higher education fundraising in Connecticut. We plan to make a return visit to the lovely mountain village of Cortina before the 2026 Winter Olympics take place."

Gary Pickholz SIPA'81 closes our retirement theme, writing, "Forty-eight years after first stepping into the oval Uris Hall library, going from freshman to faculty, I retire [this spring] from Columbia. Five schools, three research institutes. Celebrating my 'first retirement, to paraphrase Tom Brady, with a '65,000-mile tune-up and parts replacement,' to better enjoy retirement and the years ahead with family. In tragedy and in great joy, particularly with 35 years as an expat in Israel, this life bore no semblance to the naive expectations of my youth. If the College prepared me for anything, it was navigating uncharted waters.

"My wife and I celebrated our 20th anniversary, and we're having a hoot with our 3-year-old son. It's like crossing the international date line and starting over, but far more relaxed now than 30 years ago when I was a new father.

"I am reminded that Dean of Students Henry Coleman '46 said to us at our sophomore fireside chat that half of us will have careers in fields unimagined and not yet invented — and that will be the real value of the Core Curriculum. From computers, internet, financial innovation, globalization in politics and law, nuclear medicine and myriad other fields, Coleman proved prescient!"

Allow a few personal notes from your humble scribe. I'm proud to report that my eldest daughter, Elana, a graduate of Clark with an archiving master's from Simmons, followed up her Covid-19 mini-wedding last April with a formal gala at our Berkshire Farm this past Memorial Day. Her husband, Sean Young, has combined his skills in computers, astronomy and photography to help create Space Engine, which can best be described as an online self-guided way to explore the universe. Younger daughter, Joy, an American University School of International Service graduate specializing in China, is following her mom and dad's footsteps by working for a trade association that represents food "upcycling."

My wife of 36 years, Marian Chertow BC'77, Yale M.P.M. and Ph.D., continues her great leadership in the critical field of industrial ecology as a professor at the Schools of the Environment and Management at Yale. My latest chapter is helping to build an industry disrupting 'Energy as a Service' company, Budderfly.

Looking forward to hearing from you all again soon!

1979

Robert C. Klapper
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Miloon Kothari, in New Delhi, reveals he holds a wide range of posts. "I am an independent expert on human rights and social policy based in New Delhi and Geneva. Since October 2021 I am a commissioner with the United Nations Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in Israel (bit.ly/3wPoanX). I am also currently president of UPR Info, an international NGO working on the UN's Universal Periodic Review process (bit.ly/3qO08pL), as well as a visiting professor at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (bit.ly/36zYMbi).

"Looking forward to hearing about what everyone else in the Class of '79 is up to."

Greetings from **Richard Perl** LAW'84, BUS'84: "A course I took our senior year, 'Approaches to World Order,' changed my life. Professor Saul Mendlovitz challenged us to make our lives about making the world a more just and sustainable place. I deferred law and business school and worked at think tanks across the UN; they assigned me to grassroots organizing for peace issues, making the link between nuclear power (it was the year of Three Mile Island) and nuclear weapons. After two years, I moved to the Lincoln Center area and started the J.D./M.B.A. program on our beloved campus. I'm still in the area, in a building I've lived in for 31 years.

"My career has been entirely in impact business, having had a role in initiating the impact business movement in the United States and Europe. After a range of business engagements all with some 'mission-driven' focus, I've spent the last 15 years building TerraCycle, the world leader in recycling hundreds of otherwise non-recyclable waste streams (pens, toothbrushes, flexible plastic, contact lenses, coffee capsules and so on). TerraCycle is also launching a promising venture, Loop, in multiple countries.

"My wife of 25 years died of cancer; my daughter is a schoolteacher and my son is a freshman in college. I'm loving life, work and NYC. All the best to each of you."

We learn of the passing of **Robert S. Richman,** in May 2021. **Allan Hoving** writes, "I did not know Robert well, but he and I were in the same poetry writing class (it might have been Kenneth Koch's). One day, Robert turned to me and invited me to submit poems to his soon-to-be-launched literary journal, *Some Other Magazine.* He published my work in several issues, and after we graduated he made his way to *The New Criterion,* where he was poetry editor for many years. He also was the author of several books of poetry and criticism."

We also mourn the passing of **Michael P. Kelly,** who died on January 10, 2022, after a long battle with gallbladder cancer. His daughter Joanna Kelly '14 recalls how deeply her father loved Columbia.

Our condolences to his brother, **John D. Kelly,** and the entire Kelly family.

[Editor's note: See "Obituaries" for more on Richman and Kelly.]

George Jirotka writes, "I always enjoy reading this column. Recently, in perusing the current and back issues thereof, I noted with sadness the passing a while ago of my Phi Gamma Delta fraternity brother **Manuel Garcia,** and more recently another fraternity brother, Michael Hodinar '77. My parents fled communist Czechoslovakia in the late 1940s just as Michael and his mother did later. Michael and I spent many hours at Columbia discussing our mutual experiences.

"Otherwise not much is new with me as I begin another year of being a Circuit Court judge in Florida. I keep in touch with Columbia by streaming Ivy League sports on ESPN/ESPN+."

Robert C. Klapper: "Today's Class Notes thought comes from a grateful patient for whom I rebuilt their knee's anterior cruciate ligament. When they returned to my office they brought a gift, a long-sleeved white Princeton University T-shirt. This young athlete was now going to return to school and participate in the Ivy League athletics at Princeton. I could not help having my memory jolted by looking at that white T-shirt with the orange and black Princeton logo.

"It took me back to our freshman year, when **Vincent Butkiewitz** and I, members of the freshman crew, left our crew race against Princeton in spring 1976 with two Princeton T-shirts. It became one of my most cherished possessions. I cried the day that this disintegrated *schmatta* had to be thrown out (probably 20 years later). Some of you might not know, but the phrase 'losing your shirt' comes from the beautiful tradition of racing crew. One of the things you learn when you begin rowing at Columbia is that before every race you bet your shirt, and since many of the fans are far away at the finish line on shore, it is easy for the spectator to know who won the race or more importantly, who lost, because it is now those eight men who are rowing bare-chested back to the dock.

"One of my fondest memories was being interviewed my senior year in high school on campus at Princeton. It was here that I learned not only what an 'eating club' was (the fancy-schmancy fraternity unique to this campus), but I also learned from my campus tour guide, just like our College's unique requirement was the Core Curriculum, the unique requirement at Princeton for graduation was a senior thesis and I remember being told vividly about a Princeton senior who was supposedly expelled for writing his senior thesis giving the exact detail of how to make an atomic bomb. I don't know if this is true or legend but it made for a great story on my tour.

"It was due to this concept put in my head of a senior thesis that led to the greatest academic experience I had at Columbia because I did just that. I did my senior thesis on the first anatomy textbook by Vesalius, in 1543, and my advisor was my beloved art history professor David Rosand '59, GSAS'65. Not a day goes by that I don't think of his philosophies and the significant contribution to my life he made in encouraging me to pursue an art history major while still being a pre-medical student. Who could imagine that the simple gift of a T-shirt from a grateful patient could trigger so many Columbia memories from 46 years ago?

"Any Columbia *schmattas* in your closet? Let me know. Roar, lion, roar!"

1980

Michael C. Brown
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When I get older, losing my hair
Many years from now
Will you still be sending me
a Valentine?
Birthday greetings, bottle of wine?
If I'd been out till quarter to three
Would you lock the door?
Will you still need me, will
you still feed me
When I'm sixty-four?
— *The Beatles*

Happy birthday to all those 64-year-olds in the Class of '80! Not sure we're hanging out till "quarter to three" but I'll take the Valentine and a bottle of wine.

Speaking of birthdays, Jolyne Caruso-FitzGerald BC'81 and **Shawn FitzGerald** hosted a party in Palm Beach for Fitz's 64th. It was a wonderful evening of fine food, wine and tall tales with **Scott Ahern, Eric Blattman, Joe Ciulla** and me. We are aging like a fine wine but sometimes we forget to put the cork in it!

Eric Young published a book, *Declaration of Independence: How Independent Compliance and Directors Can Hold Management Accountable,* which provides professional lessons learned and legislative proposals to drive greater CEO and C-suite accountability to stop prioritizing "profit over safety." It's based on Eric's 40-year career as chief compliance officer with five global banks including JPMorgan and BNP Paribas, and nonbanks including S&P Global Ratings and GE, beginning his career with the Fed after graduating.

Eric most recently became senior managing director with Guidepost Solutions, the global investigative, security, monitoring and risk management firm.

I recently had dinner with **Dave Maloof, Jack Hersch SEAS'80,** BUS'86 and **Eric Blattman.** Dave mentioned a wonderful book in which he was surprised to see his name referenced:

"Ken Dooley is 90; a playwright, author and screenwriter; and a guest columnist for *The Providence Journal.* In November he published a book, *Dooley Noted: Tales of an Ordinary Man Fortunate Enough to Meet a Lot of Extraordinary People in His Life's Journey,* which covers covering the stories of the dozens of interesting people whom he met in Rhode Island. And he included me and the surprising story of how I convinced a Middle East leader (Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas) to give his first U.S. speech in English and pledge a commitment to peace with Israel and equal religious rights in a speech at The Cooper Union in September 2014!"

I welcome **Steve Kane** to the Class Agent program and look forward to working with him on the next reunion.

On a sad note, **Ed Shamy** passed away on November 27, 2021. Ed and I had many classes together, and he left fond memories with all who knew him. He played soccer, tended bar at Hanratty's to offset costs and graduated with a degree in political science. His early adventures included a Jack Kerouac '44-style hitchhiking journey across the United States and a Peace Corps stint in Paraguay, during which he acquired a rustic form of Spanish that served him well all his life, although he'd be the first to tell you he was (uselessly) much more fluent in Guarani. Ed's career took him to various posts as reporter, editor and columnist in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Washington, D.C., Vermont and Virginia, where in 1990 he was a Pulitzer Prize finalist with a team of reporters at the *Roanoke Times & World News* for its coverage of the coal miners' strike. His high standards as an editor could sometimes be maddening to the reporters on his staff, but they often later credited his coaching for improving their writing and honing their BS detectors. Readers responded enthu-

siastically to his colorful columns and incisive commentary.

Our condolences go out to his family. [Editor's note: See "Obituaries."]

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1981

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In this issue, we profile career changers, TV stars and more!

Following nearly 25 years practicing corporate law, during which he became partner at the Princeton-based firm of Gallagher, Briody & Butler, **John Butler** "got the call" and left the legal profession to study for the Roman Catholic priesthood. As a seminarian for the Diocese of Trenton, John entered the Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology at Seton Hall University in 2009, returning to the same campus where he had gone to high school. He earned a master's in pastoral theology and church history, was ordained to the priesthood in 2014 and on Palm Sunday 2016 became pastor of St. Michael's Church in historic Long Branch, N.J. Fr. John invites classmates who are visiting Monmouth County to join him at Sunday Mass.

John returns to Morningside Heights from time to time, and he often celebrates Mass as a visiting priest at Corpus Christi Catholic Church on West 121st Street, which is now the Catholic Campus Ministry parish for Columbia. These jaunts to the old neighborhood usually include visits to Tom's for a "cup o' cremo" and a cheeseburger deluxe while seated at the counter near the framed photo of Jerry, Elaine, Kramer and George, or to V&T for a pizza and a side order of garlic bread topped with mozzarella cheese, or revisiting The Steps to read the paper accompanied by a take-out sandwich from Milano Market (formerly Mama Joy's). Of course, John says, none of these victuals compare to those delectable, foil-wrapped hot dogs prepared early in the morning on game-day Saturdays by John, his good friend (and fellow swim team co-captain) **Rich Hauptschein SEAS '81** and their teammates for sale at the home football games at Ye Olde Baker Field — an echo of their days when the swimming and diving team members staffed the Baker Field and Levien Gym Refreshment Agency.

John and your correspondent (Dan) enjoyed reminiscing during several recent telephone conversations. John said that "the call" to the priesthood always originates from God, and can happen at any age. The discerning process can happen swiftly or more gradually, nurtured by faith, prayer, family, friends and life experiences. John credited his Columbia years as an important part of that process. We talked about European history with Eugene Rice (who lectured on the Irish monks' contribution to the preservation of Western European culture during the Dark Ages); Lit Hum with Nathan Gross (remember that we read the Gospel of Matthew); CC (which included St. Augustine's *City of God*, St. Thomas More's *Utopia* and others); Art Hum (when Milton J. Lewine '52, GSAS'60 expertly guided us through the great cathedrals and basilicas of Europe with slides projected on a movie screen in Schermerhorn); and Music Hum (those soaring-heavenward melodies of Handel's *Messiah* and all the rest). John also recalled Sunday morning Mass at the Church of Notre Dame on West 114th Street, with President William McGill seated a few pews away. Finally, we wondered if Columbia sparked a religious vocation in other alumni.

One more recollection: a unique December evening in the John Jay Lounge listening to Professor Rice — who was seated by the fireplace like Alistair Cooke welcoming viewers to *Masterpiece Theatre* — as the professor rendered an unforgettable, animated, merry and uplifting reading of "A Visit from St. Nicholas ('Twas the Night Before Christmas)."

"Only at Columbia!" John recalled.

John followed a trail to Morningside Heights blazed by his parents, John "Jack" Butler '47 and Claire Garvey Butler TC'54, and followed by his brother Charlie Butler '85 and sister-in-law Sarah Lorge Butler '95. With 18 nieces and nephews, hope springs eternal that members of the Butler family will continue to find their way to alma mater on the Hudson Shore. Contact John at jbutler1225@gmail.com or 732-222-8080.

The other half of the (unrelated) "Butler Brothers," **Dan Butler,** reports from Wareham, Mass., home of the Wareham Gatemen of the Cape Cod Summer Baseball League. After fulfilling careers with the Navy, Naval Criminal Investigative Service, Air Force and Coast Guard, Dan is enjoying retirement with his wife, Karen. Their leisure time is spent sailing and playing lots of pickleball.

Shane Triano SEAS '81 and Dinah Surh BC'79 check in from Staten Island. Dinah recalls their first encounter on 3 Hartley: "I heard loud singing — 'Keep in the middle, in the middle of the road' — by a guy in full stride passing my room and sounding more distant as he advanced to the end of the hallway. 'What a strange person,' I thought. I found out from my neighbor, **Dan Albohn,** that the singer was G. Shane Triano, a member of the Glee Club, an industrial engineering student and Dan's roommate. Dan and I enjoyed regular sojourns to Moon Palace, savoring shrimp with lobster sauce, roast pork with bean sprouts and other delicacies while catching up on the latest Columbia/Barnard news and the Lions' gridiron challenges. One weekend Dan asked me if Shane could join us. I agreed, and the rest is history. Shane and I couldn't stop talking during dinner and all the way back to Hartley, past Tom's, Mondel Chocolates and Ta-Kome. We started dating, dancing, singing and cooking together, and are now celebrating 39 years of wedding bliss."

Shane was for many years an industrial engineer designing factories that manufacture apparel, eyeglasses, jewelry, lighting and other products. For two years, he helped commercialize research performed by Columbia's civil engineering department.

Shane later made a move to teach mathematics and computer science in the New York public school system, from which he retired in 2017. He remains a do-it-yourselfer. Shane designed and built his and Dinah's home and continues to embellish this ambitious project with architectural and artistic details and custom furniture.

Shane and Dinah's son, Alex, is an electrical engineer at Texas Instruments, where he works on electric vehicles. Their daughter, Noelle, is an executive underwriter in the entertainment division at Chubb insurance company.

Dinah was for more than 35 years a senior hospital administrator in NYC, but her true vocation might lie at the intersection of food, cooking and entertainment. Living in the Barnard dorm "616" as a pre-med studying sociology, she "found a whole new world of cuisine." She recalls that her suitemates gave her "tips on how to make the best matzo ball soup," which she had never had. "Nearby," she said, "I had my first tastes of Greek, Hungarian and Thai food."

Dinah's culinary adventures extended beyond college. She entered local and national cooking contests, often creating dishes inspired by her Korean heritage. Then Dinah made her biggest splash on the nationally televised *The Rachael Ray Show,* where she won Ray's "Three Ingredient Challenge," to the accompaniment of Ray's resounding rendition of "Someone's in the Kitchen with Dinah!"

Dinah's "Poppin' Fresh" ideas continued, as she was a Pillsbury Bake-Off finalist in 2012, 2013 and 2014. When her best friend, Barbara Walker Nazkani BC'79, tipped her off that the Food Network show *Chopped* — which normally features professional chefs — was recruiting contestants for episodes featuring "amateurs, grandmas and heroes," Dinah applied, and won $10,000 as a Chopped Champion in 2014. Later, she appeared on the *Chopped Ultimate Champions* tournament but was "chopped" in the qualifying round.

Not to be outdone, Shane begged the producers of *Wheel of Fortune* for a shot: "I told them I needed some help to save my marriage because my wife is winning all these cooking contests. I needed to win something! To my surprise, they called. I flew to Los Angeles, was a contestant on the show and won some dough."

Shane and Dinah enjoyed their five minutes of fame and look forward to someday seeing their kids or grandkids on screen. And to all our classmates, we encourage you to share your stories, journeys, and joyful experiences, even if you've never been on TV.

Recent alumni might be surprised to learn that our class drew primarily from the New York City area, with most of the remainder hailing from the Northeast or abroad. A classmate from a rural Midwestern town, like **Jim Privett** of Ellsinore,

Mo. (pop. 416), seemed as exotic then as one from Kuala Lumpur.

We recently learned that Jim died in 2017. **Bob Kanarkiewicz,** Jim's Carman roommate, remembers him "as a sharp young guy who wore his cowboy boots as a natural part of his person. He was proud to be from the state that he pronounced muh-ZUR-uh and liked the big city and Columbia. We had many adventures. He was a natural writer/observer and a romantic at heart."

Jason Zweig '82 remembered that "Jim cultivated an air of mystery. He wanted us to believe he was an Ozark hillbilly, but when he opined about Shakespeare or read aloud one of his marvelous short stories, I knew he was extraordinarily talented and literate. When you said something stupid, he would dangle that cigarette off his lower lip like a black-and-white era movie star, quizzically stare at you for 10 long seconds, and drawl, 'Ah don't think so.' He was always a gentleman; we called him Mr. P."

After graduation, Jim rode his way with words into a prolific advertising career. At Lois Pitts Gershon, he worked to launch MTV, VH-1, Nickelodeon and *USA Today*. In the early '90s, he and his wife, Dee, founded the successful advertising agency j/dp Concepts.

After working in several other high-level positions, Jim and Dee decided to return to Missouri. During his job search there, he began substitute-teaching high school in Lamar (pop. 4,266) and was so inspired that he changed professions. While teaching he earned an M.A. in education, magna cum laude, at nearby Pittsburg State University. As Dee says, "His desire to see his students succeed motivated him to use all of his talents to inspire and evoke curiosity in them not just in literature, but also the entire world beyond." Dee's recollections make clear that Jim was a great teacher as well as a dedicated husband and father to their son, Julian.

One final memory from Dee: "The day we married, Jim had the limo make a stop at the campus. We sat on the College Walk steps in our fine clothes and enjoyed the view with cheer and champagne. The pride in his eyes said it all, and he brought home this pride to his students as an example of what a small-town boy from Middle America can achieve. All of his classrooms had his Columbia diploma prominently displayed as a reminder of what is possible."

Jim was taken too young. We miss him.

1982

Andrew Weisman
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Greetings, gentlemen. I hope all is well and that you're enjoying this neo–post-pandemic world, i.e., not entirely over but no one seems to care anymore. On a personal note, I've been doing a lot of so-called "revenge" travel, having been unable to go anywhere for almost two years. Really having fun with it!

Checking in this period, and setting a good example for all of us, the good doctor **Sal Volpe.**

"My elder son, Gino, has been working at Harbor Picture Co. since completing a master's in post-production at the Feirstein Graduate School of Cinema. My younger son, Salvatore G. '19, GSAS'21 is enrolled at SUNY Downstate Medical School since completing a master's in bioinformatics at Columbia. (See a photo near the CC'19 column.) Both young men live in NYC and indulge my wife and me with visits both virtual and actual. (We prefer the actual visits. Are we old-fashioned?)

"Rachel, my wife, is the director of operations for the Staten Island Heart Society. The mission is to promote 'Healthy Hearts on Staten Island' through educational activities, events and enhancement of public access to defibrillators, thus reducing the rate of death and disability from heart disease and stroke. Since 2021, Rachel has also been providing Covid-19 vaccinations at PODs (points of dispensing) and homes.

"I am the chief medical officer of the Staten Island Performing Provider System. Together with our clinical, community-based, government and managed-care partners we have worked to improve population health outcomes, to address social determinants of health and to combat the substance use crisis.

"I was looking forward to the warmer weather and walks throughout Staten Island, 'the borough of parks.'

"Shoutout to Pete Davidson and Colin Jost for rescuing the Staten Island Ferry boat *John F. Kennedy,* to become a comedy club. We need more reasons to laugh.

"Stay safe, all."

The Volpe family is clearly continuing to do its part to improve the health of all New Yorkers. Thanks!

Also checking in this period is the exceptionally accomplished journalist **Fred Katayama** JRN'83. In January, Fred, after a long and storied (pardon the pun) career, retired from Reuters to join a nonprofit leadership/networking organization, the U.S.-Japan Council. Here's what he wrote about his final day at Reuters:

"I'll miss the newsroom. Friday was my last day at Reuters and as a journalist. I'm hanging up my hat after nearly four decades so I could pass the hat in my 'second act.'

"I woke up on this snowy Saturday overwhelmed with gratitude, a contrast to the stress I felt yesterday scrambling to get things done before I'd lose access to corporate email, phone and editing systems at midnight. I'm so touched by the flood of messages, tweets and posts from colleagues, market guests, mentors, friends, family and fans. I'll get back to all of you hopefully by day's end.

"Journalism was a joyride, even its roller-coaster moments. It was the only profession I had ever dreamed of, save for a passing fancy as a baseball announcer or far-fetched fantasy of playing lead guitar/vocalist for a pop rock band. Over four decades, I've had the privilege of witnessing and covering big events such as the rise and fall of Japan's bubble economy, the Kobe Earthquake, collapse of Enron, 9-11, dot-com boom-and-bust, Hurricane Katrina, and the global pandemic. I've interviewed the likes of Bill Gates, Jeff Skilling, Lee Kuan Yew, Henry Kissinger, LeBron James and Serena Williams. And I was blessed to have worked with the finest scribes at AP, *Fortune* magazine, NHK, KIRO-TV, CNN, and Reuters. But as The Byrds crooned echoing Ecclesiastes — 'To everything, turn, turn, turn, there is a season …' — the season has come for me to turn and turn.

"Come Valentine's Day, I'll be joining a nonprofit I'm passionate about, the U.S.-Japan Council, as its executive vice president overseeing development. I'm just thrilled that I'll be working with someone I truly respect and have known for over a decade, Suzanne Basalla, her team, boards of directors and counselors, and devoted members. As one of USJC's founding board members, I tip my hat to its co-founders who continue to inspire me to this day, the late Sen. Daniel Inouye and Irene Hirano Inouye.

"I am deeply indebted to so many mentors, advisors, colleagues, family and friends who've counseled me on my journey. You know who you are. Thank you from the bottom of my heart as I follow my heart."

Fred, on behalf of all of your Columbia friends and fans, congratulations on all your achievements as a journalist!

Gentlemen, please drop us a note by email or via the Class Notes webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. Looking forward to hearing from you!

1983

Roy Pomerantz
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Greetings, classmates. My boys and I have thoroughly enjoyed the tremendous success of the Columbia women's basketball team this season. We attended several games, including the most recent Women's National Invitation Tournament home wins against Holy Cross and Boston College. As of this submission, Columbia beat Boston College but was defeated by Seton Hall in the Quarterfinals. Columbia's 12–2 Ivy record (25–6 overall) is the best in program history.

Eddy Friedfeld: "I spent the last two years on two projects of a lifetime: The first was working with icon Mel Brooks on his autobiography, *All About Me,* which came out in November and debuted on *The New York Times* Bestseller List. The second was co-writing *Directed by James Burrows* with the legendary director of *Taxi. Cheers, Frasier, Friends* and *Will & Grace* fame, among his record 1,000-plus sitcom episodes, which [was due out in] June. Both books are available on Amazon."

Larry Herman: "A belated mazel tov to me as I married off my first child, Dr. Daniella Freyda Herman BC'17, to Dr. Brian Sanders. Daniella recently graduated from New York Medical College and started her residency in radiology at Westchester Medical Center. Brian is an otolaryngologist who recently



NIRSEXPRESSIONS.COM

A large group of alumni gathered at the wedding of Dr. Daniella Freyda Herman BC'17, daughter of Dr. Lawrence Herman '83, to Dr. Brian Sanders at the Rockleigh (N.J.) country club on July 20. Left to right: Dr. Miles Ladenheim '83, Leonard Rosen '83, Neal Smolar '83, Betsy Chutter Smolar BC'85, Pace Cooper '85, Aileen Herman Cooper BC'85, Cheryl Tager Goldschmidt BC'80, Joel Goldschmidt '79, Dr. David Kriegel '83, Herman, Mark Segall '84, Ellen Klestzick Goldschmidt BC'85, Jay Lefkowitz '84, Dr. Aron Kressel '81 and Dr. Saul Lebovic '83.

finished his residency at NYU and started private practice.

"You will recognize many classmates in the nearby photo from the wedding on July 20, 2021, at The Rockleigh country club in New Jersey. Pretty good turnout for a Covid-19 wedding. And all vaccinated pre-Delta."

David Lyle: "My husband, Doug Murray, and I were in Harlaxton, U.K., January–April while Doug taught his Belmont University study-abroad students. On March 17, I met buddy Clare Delmar BC'83 for lunch in London. Clare and her husband, Brian Lynch, live there. We mainly talked about news of classmates, including **Ben Heimsath, Robert Lucero, Scott Brewer, Francisco Santiago, Roy Pomerantz** and John Phelan '85, plus some celebrity chatter about George Stephanopoulos '82 and **Barack Obama.**"

Mark Licht: "My kids left the nest so after living and practicing urology in Boca Raton for 20 years I moved up to Titusville, in central Florida, three years ago. Still working, but I now live near the world-famous Mosquito Lagoon. Some of the best redfish fly fishing in the country. My wife, Margie SEAS'83, and I have been married for 37 years. Our three kids were not Columbia material so after donating to the College for 30 years straight I now give to their schools: UCLA, Grinnell and Northwestern. I stay in touch with **Myles Hansen** and **Matt 'The Boy' Samarel SEAS'83,** who is 60 but still looks 21."

Jon Lichtmacher: "I earned an M.F.A. in fiction writing at Brown and then attended the University of Rochester School of Medicine. I moved to San Francisco for psychiatry residency at UCSF, and was at UCSF for 21 years, the last seven as director of the Psychiatry Clinic. In 2013, I moved to Kaiser Permanente in Richmond, Calif., where I am site-chief. I love the collaborative culture and the people I work with at Kaiser. These are challenging times for the field of mental health, with national shortages of psychiatrists and therapists and a high demand for care. I am married to Liza Geary, whom I met during our pre-medical, post-bac year. We celebrated our 30th anniversary last fall and feel lucky to have raised our four amazing boys in San Francisco. Our oldest, Jeremy, is in a post-bac pre-medical program. Paul is a senior at UC Berkeley, majoring in computer science. Adam is a sophomore (and squash player) at Amherst and our youngest, Hank, is a junior in high school and a ballet dancer.

"My fondest academic memories are of taking Latin poetry in small classes on cold and windy fall afternoons in Hamilton with Steele Commager and Robert Brown. I have not stayed too connected with the original group from Carman Hall, but I remember **Mark McMorris, Yu Jin Ko, Bill Spiegelberger,** Greg Sheres and my roommate, John Churchill, fondly."

Wayne Root: "President Donald J. Trump was a guest on *Wayne Allyn Root: Raw & Unfiltered* on the USA Radio Network on February 8. It was the third time Trump has appeared on Root's show in the past nine months.

"Root reminded Trump that it was Root's idea for Trump to become Speaker of the House, if the GOP retakes the House in November. Root's idea has been featured in thousands of media stories since last May, when Root first asked him.

"Root also suggested to Trump that the GOP Senate must remove Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell.

"Newlywed Root ended the interview by announcing he and his wife, Cindy Parker Root, were looking forward to their honeymoon in March at Trump's Palm Beach home, Mar-a-Lago. Trump replied that he looks forward to seeing Root soon."

Michael Lavine: "I've been living near Lincoln Center for more than 32 years. I see and even stay with **Paul Lerner** in Los Angeles. I recently got back in touch with my high school and Columbia friend **Jim Trainor** after many years. I'm so happy to see he's doing so well in Chicago. I'm happily still coaching singers, preparing them for their Broadway auditions, helping them find new songs to sing for various reasons and working with them on the acting of the songs. Through the years, I've amassed a large collection of sheet music of all types, and I love sharing it with people (like Michael Feinstein; we write back and forth quite frequently) all over the world. I've done a number of concerts recently; all online during 2020 and 2021, but now I'm going back to live venues in New York City and around the country.

"I loved my time at Columbia. I've said this here before, but I still have several original Sam Steinberg drawings that I bought from him outside Carman in around 1980 ('I've got the Big Ones!') ... I loved having Wallace Gray as my 'Eliot, Joyce & Pound' professor. The semester after I studied with him, I was in London for six months. I found myself in Dublin on what would have been James Joyce's 100th birthday, so I went to the Martello tower (now part of the James Joyce Tower and Museum), armed with several copies of the Dublin newspapers of the day. I got them all stamped at the museum and brought them back to Professor Gray. He gave them out as presents to the best students of the year for a while. I also loved Peter Awn, my Lit Hum professor. His curriculum was a bit different from a lot of the other Lit Hum professors, and it was a class I looked forward to every week.

"My mother is going strong at 97 in Bethesda, Md. My sister, Amy, and I visit her every month. Amy is the director of institutional giving at GLAAD and doing great. I'd love to hear from anyone who remembers me: broadwaymhl@aol.com."

Langham Gleason '84: "It is with great sadness that I report the passing of my dear friend **Walter Melvin Roberts III** Ph.D. Walter grew up in Detroit and attended Detroit Catholic Central. Uncertain about his path after graduating from high school, he worked in a tractor factory for two years before college. Walter loved to tell the story of his application essay to the College, the only school to which he applied. In a burst of intellectual bravado, he advised the Admissions Office that letting him in would be 'the best thing they had ever done for the school.' Walter was not far off the mark. He graduated junior Phi Beta Kappa and summa cum laude with a double major in Greek and philosophy. He earned a master's in philosophy from Chicago. Subsequently he earned a Ph.D. in classics from UC Berkeley. He then taught at the University of Vermont, UMass Amherst and Wayne State University. Along the way he spent time at a Carthusian monastery in Vermont considering a life of the cloth, was a bicycle messenger carrying six-figure gems around NYC, taught chess to youngsters including one nascent grandmaster and bar-backed at The Hard Rock Café in New York City alongside Vincent D'Onofrio serving luminaries such as Keith Richards.

"At the end of his life Walter was filming a series of instructional videos on Ancient Greek, which he narrates and that are based on the original texts (bit.ly/3u6TaOt). The 80-plus videos are used by beginning Ancient Greek scholars around the world.

"Walter battled gastric stromal cell cancer for two decades but ultimately passed away from coronary artery disease on August 29, 2021. He is survived by his brother, Anthony Roberts; a sister, Dr. April Roberts, and many close friends."

In honor of Gerald "Jerry" Sherwin '55, I am ending my notes as he did for 40 years: Love to all! Everywhere!

Jerry, we love you, and we will never forget you.

[Editor's note: See "Obituaries" at college.columbia.edu/cct for more.]

1984

Dennis Klainberg
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Best wishes to **Jon Abbott,** longtime CEO of Public Media's GBH in Boston, on the announcement of his retirement. According to his bio on publicmedianow.org, Jon led "GBH (Formerly WGBH), America's preeminent public media organization, the largest producer of PBS content for TV and the Web, and a major supplier of content for public radio and digital audio services. A nationally recognized public media leader, Abbott has transformed the way GBH creates and distributes educationally rich content to millions of Americans throughout New England and across the nation."

As many of us know, Jon started his career at WKCR. He earned an M.B.A from Stanford. He is a member of the boards of PBS, National Public Media, PRI/PRX, NEPM, Contributor Development Partnership, PBS Distribution and Project Healthy Children. He is an elected member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and a 2016 recipient of a John Jay Award for distinguished professional achievement.

Here's hoping he'll regale us with amazing stories at our 40th reunion in 2024!

David Branner: "We remain in Taiwan. We had expected to be back in New York for part of every year, but the pandemic changed all our thinking. Yes, we still wear masks all the time. People in Taiwan are generally cooperative when the government asks them to do something. I'm getting a lot of scholarship done. I have a new translation under review at a publisher and am almost a year into forensic work in support of proofreading my late teacher's last book, containing his reconstruction of Early Chinese. He died rather suddenly and left some undated manuscripts, but no explanation of the principles underlying what he was doing. So in order to resolve numerous inconsistencies in the various manuscripts and earlier publications, I have had to try to model his thinking. It has, in the end, gone pretty well, and I expected the whole project to be finished in March and the book to appear this year (though I'm not the editor; merely proofreading)."

Frank Lang: "I have been working in the community development field for 28 years and live with my wife in Queens. I've worked the past 16 years in Brooklyn with St. Nicks Alliance. I earned an M.Arch. and my license and worked in architecture firms for a while. Now I can be the client for my former colleagues. I oversee staff development, property management and services for low-income residents. Right now, I'm working with **Craig Tooman**'s firm, CTA Architects, on two preservation projects rehabbing a total of 122 buildings with 900 apartments in Manhattan, Brooklyn and the Bronx. It is tough but rewarding work."

Jim Satloff attended a small 60th birthday celebration for **Frank Sommerfield.** Also present were **Stu Cane** and Michael Purves '86.

David Stafford recently caught up with old friend John Bonomi '83 on Zoom. They reminisced at length about their great memories together at CC, both on and off the tennis and basketball courts. David is the general counsel for education publisher McGraw Hill and lives in Scarsdale with his wife, Caryn Tager Stafford BC'85, LAW'88. They have three children in their 20s (Daniel, Andrew and Allison, who is a junior at Amherst) plus their tabby cat, Tommy, who is the only one standing between them and an empty nest.

Wayne Weddington: "I have been happily emerging from the constraints of the pandemic. Social and business gatherings are a life-affirming respite from the shackles of isolation. We gave birth to Augustus Pennoyer Weddington (b. April 20, 2021), who continues to grow in cognition, personality and energy. I required a longer runway, but could not be happier to be a dad! Were that we would be blessed to have more. We endeavor. Also, with all the wokeness that abounds, I am eternally grateful to Columbia for providing a strongly traditional education that exalted excellence in all endeavors. It has served me a lifetime. Stand, Columbia. Also, I am a catechumen; the big day [was scheduled for] April 17."

Todd Sussman is the liner notes editor for Barbra Streisand's *Release Me 2*. With this album, Streisand sets a record: She is the only woman with a new Top 20 (or even a Top 40) album in every decade from the 1960s through the 2020s. The album is the most elaborate release of her entire career, and Todd says he was honored to be part of this project, having been the liner notes editor for her 11th number 1 album, *Encore: Movie Partners Sing Broadway.*

Visit cabaretscenes.org for Todd's celebrity interviews and reviews. Recent cover stories of the Cabaret Scenes print edition include Johnny Mathis, Kristin Chenoweth and Stephen Schwartz, in honor of his Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Songbook Association. As a special surprise to Amanda McBroom (who wrote the music and lyrics for the iconic title song from the film *The Rose*), none other than Bette Midler provided Todd with a heartfelt quotation for the cover story. Online interviews include Dionne Warwick and Melissa Manchester. Write to Todd at toddaos@aol.com.

Richard Hester: "My book, *Hold, Please: Stage Managing a Pandemic,* came out on March 29. I have spent my working life since Columbia as a Broadway stage manager, the last 16 years before the shutdown as the production supervisor of *Jersey Boys* here and all over the world. I am working on a new pre-Broadway musical version of *The Karate Kid.* We [were scheduled to] open in St. Louis in May with an eye to Broadway next year.

"When the pandemic hit, I started writing and posting essays on Substack about what was going on every day (bit.ly/3LjueZY). These have now been collected (and edited, lol) into a book."

Adam Dicker: "Our son Shimshon '21 was married in summer 2020. He and his wife moved to Tel Aviv in November, and he will serve in the IDF starting in the next few months. Our other son, Yisachar '25, is a freshman, so it has been interesting to see how Columbia has rolled with Covid-19. I continue to work at Jefferson, and I am more involved in the startup world both in the United States and Israel as it relates to digital health and the convergence of pharma. As I get older and see the impact of the pandemic on our patients, staff and family, I am even more appreciative of the blessing of health and wellness."

Michael Hall: "CC alums gathered at The Armory and had an off-campus dinner and drinks around the USA Indoor Track & Field Indoor Championships on February 26. In attendance: **Reggie Henderson;** Lance Warrick '79, LAW'82; John Schutty '80; Peter McCartt '82; Steve Carty '85; Tony O'Shea '85; Ward Bobitz '86; Dave McCarty '86; Terry Jones '86, BUS'87; and Doug Teasdale '89."

See the photo below!

Incidentally, Reggie continues to pole vault and is competing at the masters level with **Ron Hubsher SEAS'84.** Says Reggie: "We competed in the 2022 USATF Masters Indoor Championships at The Armory in NYC on March 20."



SHAWN HENDERSON

Gathered at the Ivy League Track & Field Championships at the Armory in NYC on February 26 were, left to right: Lance Warrick '79, Herman Kane '61 (track and field recruiter in the '70s and '80s), Tony O'Shea '87, Reggie Henderson '84, John Schutty '80 and Peter McCartt '82.



PASQUALE DEVITO '74

On April 20, several alumni got together at a Carnegie Hall concert organized by Dr. Joel Halio '74, who discovered — and helped organize the world premiere of — "Hymns from Auschwitz," a long-lost orchestral work by Michel Assael, a Greek-Jewish Holocaust survivor. Left to right are David Sahar '75, Halio, Dennis Klainberg '84 and Dr. George McKinley PS'80. Also in attendance were Pasquale DeVito '74, Nina Fleischman BC'76, Brian Eskenazi '74, Dr. Jacob Cohen DM'83 and Dr. Morris Sasson DM'83.

Richard Brody: "I did a Ph.D. in Russian history at the University of Michigan, then worked in government, winding up at the White House as Russia advisor to VP Al Gore. In 2000, I moved to Moscow with family to run United Technologies Corp.'s Russia operations for six years, then returned to Harford, Conn., to run international business development for UTC's clean energy division. I've continued in the clean energy technology business at Lockheed Martin and a few VC-supported startups. I'm VP business development at Quidnet Energy (energy storage), one of Bill Gates's Breakthrough Energy portfolio investments. My wife, Beate Dafeldecker, worked in international educational exchange and now is in real estate development. We have two grown kids. Adam's a consultant at BCG in New York and Emma BC'20's an urban planner at WSP in San Diego. Emma going to Barnard was my delight and somewhat Beate's disappointment, as she runs Harvard alumni interviews in our region. While moving Emma into her room at 49 Claremont I had a major circle-of-life moment when I looked across the airshaft and pointed out my room at 47 Claremont, from more than 30 years before! I've always treasured the value of the liberal arts education at Columbia and the unparalleled experience of being a student in New York. Where else could you go on an all-night bicycle tour/history lesson through four boroughs and finish watching the sun rise in Brooklyn Heights? Thanks, Professor Jackson!"

At the memorial for Gerald "Jerry" Sherwin '55, aka "Mr. Columbia" and "The Mayor of Morningside Heights," held on March 5 at St. Paul's Chapel, I was thrilled to get back to campus for the first time in two years, and gratified to share a moment of remembrance for a great friend and alumnus. Whether up front and personal, as he attended so many basketball games on the bench, or behind the scenes, as he helped advocate for the Marching Band in meetings with the University and Athletics, Jerry was, quite simply, a MENSCH. Among the luminaries paying tribute that day were Roger Lehecka '67, GSAS'74, our dean of students and professor emeritus; Kevin Matthews '80, chief of staff at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture; Lisa Carnoy '89, co-chair of the University Trustees; Ted Schweitzer '91, LAW'94, president of the of Columbia College Alumni Association; Mike Schmidtberger '82, LAW'85, chair of the Executive Committee at Sidley Austin; Dr. Elliot Gross '55, former NYC chief medical examiner; Richie Gordon '83, VP at Samuel A. Ramirez & Co; and dear friend Roy Pomerantz '83, CEO at Regent Baby Products (and a fellow class scribe). [Editor's note: See "Obituaries" at college.columbia.edu/cct.]

1985

Jonathan White
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Thanks for your usual great updates. It's always fantastic to hear from some folks after a few years, and others after a few decades. It's never too late to send me a note.

After graduation **Larry Gallagher** meandered his way into the magazine business, "first as an intern at *Harper's* before moving to *Esquire,* where I was an editorial assistant. In 1987 I jumped to San Francisco to join the staff of an ill-fated and short-lived travel rag, *Trips.* When that enterprise imploded I launched out on my own as a freelance writer, specializing in what once was called 'immersive' journalism. In that mode I explored (among other things) commercial fishing in Alaska; worked in a slaughterhouse in Nebraska; studied yoga in Mysore, India; smoked toad venom in the New Mexico desert; and studied Zen Buddhism in the mountains outside Los Angeles. It is the last of these that hooked my soul enough that I felt compelled to go back. This stint lasted three years before I burned out and found my way back to the Bay Area, around the turn of the century.

"My second stint in San Francisco lasted a good 15 years, during which time I made many a valiant attempt to resuscitate my writing career before giving up and throwing myself into carpentry. During that time I recorded five CDs of original songs, perhaps the accomplishment of which I am most proud in my life, although the universe received it with a cosmic shrug. When, in 2016, my first marriage imploded, I made the quixotic move of following an Irish woman I hardly knew to the west of Ireland to explore the possibility of lasting contentment. Miraculously that strategy seems to be panning out, so 2022 finds me living in the town of Sligo, on the Atlantic Coast, summer home of Yeats himself, restoring a pair of Georgian buildings from the 1880s. Any classmates passing through the area can bring along a copy of this entry for a free pint of Guinness, courtesy of yours truly."

Larry Rogers made a big move during the summer, transitioning from the Watervliet Public Library in Upstate New York to a permanent reference librarian position in the larger city of Troy. "After 12 years of working 10 hours a week for about $11.90 an hour, it's been a real thrill to move up to a steady 20 hours a week and to make more than $20 an hour. Gee, but I'm grateful to the Columbia College English department for the opportunities my English literature degree has opened up for me. Why, if it wasn't for my Columbia degree, I might not have been stuck in Watervliet for only 12 years. It might have been 20 or 30 years!

"Columbia sure has opened up a lot of doors for me. The older I get the more overwhelmed I am by feelings of gratitude. I can still picture the smiling faces of scholars like Howard Schless and Wallace Gray, saying over and over again how gifted I was, and how lucky I was to be a student at a school like Columbia. Thanks to all the encouragement and the individual attention I received, all my professional dreams have now come true. I feel a deep and lasting sense of indebtedness to the College. There's definitely a debt there, and I'd love to repay it!"

Derek Suite JRN'88 and his wife, Darcel BC'83, JRN'84, met at Columbia in 1980 and married in 1988. They run the mental health businesses fullcirclehealthny.com. fccwellness.org, fullcircleconfidential.com and darceldillardsuite.com.

Michael Reilly says hello and sends good wishes to all classmates, and was inspired to write after seeing news from his TEP/IEP fraternity brother **Greg Jarrin** in a recent column. Mike lives in Wilmington, Del., where he and his wife have recently become empty-nesters with the Covid-19–delayed departure of his youngest (of three) kids to college. Mike is general counsel of FMC Corp. (where he has been in various roles for 20 years). FMC is a global agricultural sciences company based in Philadelphia. When not working, Mike is busy hiking, singing in his church choir or helping out various Wilmington and Philadelphia nonprofits. Summer getaways and many weekends are spent at Cape May Point, N.J.

Mike has stayed in touch with **Peter Georgiou, Dan Goroff** and **Joe Dapello,** and with other Columbia and Barnard friends via Facebook. He missed not seeing folks at our canceled 2020 reunion, especially the now-deceased **Tom Vinciguerra,** about whom Mike shared this reminiscence: "We all undoubtedly have our own memories of January 6, which now ranks alongside 9-11 as a 'Do you remember what you were doing then?' moment. For me, memories of that day are leavened by receiving, out of the blue, a call from 'Thomas Vincig' (as seen on caller ID). Could

it really be Tom? I picked up and sure enough, Tom's voice came through and we spent the next hour catching up and reminiscing, blissfully ignoring images of the riot and the talking heads on TV. Tom was the most passionate Columbia alum around, and his passing was a great shock and loss to his many friends and the College. I remain so thankful that he called me that day."

Also got quick hellos from my CC and Law School Class of 1988 classmates **Sebastian Sperber** (residing and practicing in London) and Hon. **Tim Tomasi** (now on the bench for 11 years in Vermont).

I am fortunate to celebrate the graduation from graduate school of my two youngest sons: Noah (from UC Berkeley) and Josh (from Miami). Both completed their studies while employed full-time and have great passion for their studies (Noah: global studies, and Josh: an M.B.A.) and their work (Noah: route-setting for a climbing gym, and Josh: sports info director for Miami college baseball). My wife, Allison BC'86, is leading a fiber arts project in our town. Through her efforts, she worked with many community organizations and dozens of community residents to crochet more than 500 granny squares that would be attached to 50 trees in town (with crocheted hands connecting them and hugging the trees) in celebration of Earth Month. She did a great job crocheting and organizing as always, and it has been so nice to see the community come together in today's excessively politicized world.

Finally, I was recently elected vice-chair of the National Coffee Association, my industry's leading advocacy and trade group; it has been a great way both to give back to the coffee community and to get to meet the largest participants in my coffee world.

Look forward to hearing from you soon!

1986

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I'm always impressed by classmates and the interesting lives that we lead. We are still getting out there in the world and pursuing what we want to pursue. The pandemic and its after-effects have caused us to heed the call: "Don't wait — do it now!"

Peter McLaughlin wrote from beautiful South Carolina. "This update finds my wife, Elizabeth, and me in Mount Pleasant, S.C., just north of Charleston. Though home is still in the Boston area, we're here for the month [as I write], as I've wanted for some time to find somewhere warmer for January–March. All the comfort with remote work has permitted us to be here for March, and halfway through we renewed for next year. Temps in the 60s and 70s works fine for an earlier start to my cycling season and to my golf game. It has been 25 years since I've regularly played golf (pre-kids, pre-marriage, when I lived in Dublin), and there is a long way to go. But still fun, somehow.

"I've been doing the lawyer thing for nearly 30 years now, and I've been fortunate to be in the privacy/cybersecurity space since 2000. While my career is a mix of in-house and law firm, the privacy area is fun, challenging and 'hot' so it will continue to allow me to pay the mortgage and cover my coffee fix. Elizabeth works in the residential real estate sector, which has been rather nutty since early 2020. It has been tough for her, though, because she moved her elderly parents from Cleveland to be near us; her dad died recently and her mom has Alzheimer's. While I consider myself to be young at heart, it is a reminder of how important family can be and it causes me to think about what 'quality of life' means.

"On the youthful side, our kids, Alex (21) and Grace (20), are doing well. Alex was finishing his third of four years at University of St Andrews in Scotland, where he has of course picked up golf. When schoolwork allows, he's playing golf two to four times a week on the Old Course, New, Eden, Jubilee, and so on. Rough life. He is working for PricewaterhouseCoopers this summer in New York. Grace is in her second year at Drexel, focusing on animation and digital media. We'll all be working for her someday, as she could go into game design, augmented and virtual reality, and/or entertainment/computer-generated imagery. She's enjoying Philadelphia and the co-op programs that Drexel offers.

"On the Columbia side, I stay in touch with **Ray Saltini, Bernard Perlmutter,** Mary Seterdahl (née Bull) BC'86 and others from crew. The four of us have a monthly Zoom session, which is a really nice way to keep track of one another, respective parents, kids and so on."

Anthony Tutrone sent in a nice first-time update from NYC. "I cannot believe that it has been 36 years since we graduated. I have fond memories of my time at Columbia. My wife, Amy, and I have been married for 33 years. For the last nine years, we have been living in NYC in the Flatiron District (conveniently located across from the original Shake Shack in Madison Park). Since the beginning of 2002, I have been the head of private market investments at Neuberger Berman, and I feel fortunate to be working at a great company in a job that I love. Amy devotes much of her time to running our family and to philanthropic activities that focus on providing educational opportunities for low-income students, including establishing scholarships at the high school, college (including Columbia) and graduate school level. She is also involved in community outreach programs focused on alleviating homelessness. Our son, Will BUS'22 (29), will work in the video game industry (he always assured Amy and me that all his hours playing video games was not a waste). He also was recently engaged to Katie Skara, a fellow Holy Cross graduate. Amy and I could not be happier! Our daughter, Annie (26), graduated from Colorado College, and after being a graphic designer for a consumer products company in NYC for last four years, she has been accepted to several architecture graduate programs and is in the process of deciding which school is right for her."

Thank you, **Perry Van Der Meer,** for forwarding a *Wall Street Journal (WSJ)* profile in February on **Jacob Collins,** a painter who has become a leading figure in the contemporary revival of classical painting. His work has been widely exhibited in North America and Europe and is included in several American museums. Jacob is the founder of Grand Central Atelier, an art school in Queens. He and other faculty members teach students "the old-fashioned precepts of painting, which emphasize direct observation, knowledge of anatomy, the use of live models and years of practice in drawing techniques, perspective and color theory. It's no secret that the contemporary art world repels some people, turning them against art in general. I bump into people all the time who feel that either you have to be committed to the avant-garde's narrative or, if you reject it, you're considered a rube," Jacob says in the *WSJ.* "And I meet people all the time who say, 'I don't know anything about art,' but what they are really saying is that they are intimidated by the spin of the art world."

Jacob's paintings were to be shown in April at Adelson Galleries in Palm Beach, Fla.

Goran Puljic emailed from sunny Nantucket. "My update covers the last six years: In early 2016, I retired from Oak Hill Advisors, where I was a portfolio manager and partner in charge of structured credit investing. Since then, I've been on the advisory board of Strategic Value Partners, a distressed-debt investing firm. From early 2018 until mid-2019, my wife, Melinda, and I studied at Stanford as fellows in the Distinguished Careers Institute, where I focused on renewable energy and Melinda focused on



Racing for the Kings Crown Rowing Association at the Head of the Charles in Boston on October 25 — and having the best finish of any "old" Columbia alumni boat! — were, left to right: Carl C. Eierle '88, Terry Waldron SEAS'82, Mike McCarthy '83, James Murphy '88 and, in front, coxswain Conan Hom.



REGGIE HENDERSON '84

Competing at the 2022 USATF Masters Indoor National Championships at The Armory in NYC on March 19 were, left to right: Devon Martin '90, Heather Ruddock '88, Bonnie Eshel BC'88 and Lisa Carnoy '89.

sustainability. Our oldest son, Nicholas SEAS'19, graduated with a degree in computer science and joined Oscar Health. In mid-2021, and after Oscar Health's IPO, he left and became founder and chief technology officer of Stock Unlock, a fin-tech startup that is now part of Y-Combinator's 2022 H1 cohort. Our younger son, Tucker, left Tulane in 2016 to follow his culinary passion, and enrolled in the College of Food Innovation and Technology at Johnson & Wales University, from which he graduated in 2020. During Covid-19, he started 5 Mile River Baking, a cottage baking business, from our Connecticut home. He recently started Slow to Rise Bakery on Nantucket, after moving there full time. Melinda and I have also moved to Nantucket full time, where she is starting an organic flower business, Fleur Nantucket, on our property, and I'm involved in numerous renewable energy projects from investing in early stage cleantech businesses to developing a carbon capture project at an ethanol plant in Kansas. I'm also a board member at PureField Ingredients and continue to work with Strategic Value Partners."

Paul Wojcicki, in Illinois writes: "In a nutshell, my wife, Tricia, and I have four great kids. Erin, our eldest, is a PR professional and is getting married in October. Our second daughter, Jenna, recently passed the Georgia bar and is living and working in Atlanta. Our son Jack was to graduate from the University of Tennessee in May with a degree in architecture. Our youngest, Evan, is in his second year at Purdue pursuing a degree in civil engineering. After 30 years in private practice, I became an assistant state's attorney in Cook County, in the Criminal Appeals Division. I am enjoying my second career immensely."

Howie Oster is busy with his five children in Tel Aviv: "We have been living in Israel for more than 20 years, and I am the director of the Department of Internal Medicine A in the Tel Aviv Sourasky Medical Center. We were the first Covid-19 department at our hospital at the start of the pandemic; an unforgettable experience. I also have a growing outpatient practice with Maccabi Healthcare Services HMO. My wife, Marcy, works in journalism from Israel, and the kids are growing up. Sara is working on a Ph.D. in the immunology department at Hebrew University, Emunah is married and teaching in elementary school, Amichai is serving in the Givati Brigade of the Israel Defense Forces, Yonatan is studying at the Har Etzion yeshiva and Tova is in 12th grade, preparing for her national service next year."

Film editor **Eric Pomert** has enjoyed a fire-free period with his wife in the Bay Area and has been editing two short films for new filmmakers: *It Clicked Too Late for Kiligan Cruz* and *#FreeNias.* The narrative feature Eric edited and produced, *Barry & Joan,* will start running on Netflix in Europe this spring. He says he hopes the rest of the class is faring well in their late 50s, and he was looking forward to a family reunion on Cape Cod this summer.

Rev. **Jim Mitulski** started in October as the interim pastor of Peace United Church of Christ in Duluth, Minn., is on the faculty of United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities and was recently appointed to the Minnesota Council for HIV/AIDS Care and Prevention.

J.D. Scrimgeour GSAS'87's bilingual collection of poetry, *Banana Bread: A Mandarin Pandemic Diary,* was recently published. J.D. is the chair of English at Salem State University in Salem, Mass.

Please send me updates by email or use the Class Notes webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. If you'd like to share photos, please submit them directly to *CCT* using the Class Notes photo webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo.

1987

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In inspiring news, **Lee Ilan** testified before Congress recently on behalf of the National Brownfields Coalition. She was invited to talk about cleanup and restoration of brownfields, sites where pollution interferes with redevelopment. You can read her testimony here: bit.ly/3Jb4ptA.

We must unfortunately add a sad note, as **Chris Lasch** has passed away. Chris had been a professor at the Sturm College of Law at the University of Denver. **Shona Chakravartty** and **Norbert White** shared with us some memories of Chris: "We three lived on Carman 6 our freshman year and by the end of that eventful year (dead body rolled in a carpet! fire set in elevator during finals week!), we were inseparable friends. During the fall of our sophomore year, Chris and Shona started dating and remained a couple until a year after graduation. However, this didn't stop the three of us from spending an inordinate amount of time together, despite the distance between Fairholm and Ruggles. Night-long poker games, lifting weights (not Shona), playing pool at FBH, watching movies, and then arguing about them, endless discussions about philosophers, endlessly hilarious games of Botticelli, Trivial Pursuit and charades, midnight runs to Koronet.

"Chris was a polymath, an iconoclast, a contrarian and a loyal friend. He seemed to excel at whatever he tried — music, art, lawnball, learning languages (he took up German as an upperclassman, and then Japanese a few years later). Although a history major, he delighted in taking the most obscure courses he could find at the College, such as 'History of the Mongol Empire,' where he might have been the only student!

"Midway through our senior year, Chris decided he couldn't wait to get out into the 'real word' and graduated early, moved to an apartment in Washington Heights and got his dream job at the renowned Elias Sports Bureau, where he worked on baseball stats — his true lifelong passion.

"Although we would not have predicted that Chris would go on to become an important legal scholar and public interest attorney, the skills, values and passion he brought to his professional life were certainly evident at CC.

"We will cherish the all-too-brief time we had together — he was the best of us."

I look forward to receiving all your stories from reunion for our next column. It should be jam-packed!

Please submit updates by email or use the Class Notes webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. If you'd like to share photos, please submit them directly to *CCT* using the Class Notes photo webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo.

1988

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The family of **Michael Argenziano** PS'92 boasts Columbia ties that few others can match. Michael reported, "I am still at Columbia after all these years, where I am a cardiac surgeon and associate chief of the Division of Cardiac, Thoracic, and Vascular Surgery." His wife, **Maria Rodino,** "is a busy private practice endocrinologist in New Jersey and seven-time New York City Marathon finisher. We have six children, the oldest of whom, Michael '18, PS'23, is in his last year P&S. The second oldest, Anthony '20, is working in the Pittsburgh Pirates's front office. Nicholas is a junior at NYU, where he is a captain of the baseball team, and Anna, Daniel and Emma, are in high school. Maria and I met at Columbia as members of

only the second fully coeducational class, and cherish the life-changing education that we (and some of our children, so far) have been privileged to receive. Go Lions!"

Jon Bassett has been a high school history teacher since 1990 and last year co-authored a book, *From Story to Judgment: The Four Question Method for Teaching and Learning Social Studies*. "I'm now working with my partner to develop open-source curriculum based on the method," Jon said. "I remain in regular contact with **Jon Weiss, Jon Rosand** PS'94 and **Steve Sagner.** Steve organizes annual trips for us that combine baseball, food, tourism and family history. So far we've visited Baltimore, New York (three times), Boston and Philadelphia. This summer we're headed to Chicago, where we hope to connect with **Tim Merello** and see the Cubs."

Thomas Cornfield is a financial planner based in Michigan with Generational Financial Group. He says, "The pandemic taught me that I can work from home or anywhere I have an internet connection, so I plan to travel more (for pleasure and work) and avoid braving Michigan snowstorms."

In the "Roar, Lion, Roar" category, **Carl C. Eierle,** Terry Waldron SEAS'82, Mike McCarthy '83 and **James Murphy** have been rowing crew for the King's Crown Rowing Association and making the Class of '88, and Columbia, proud. They competed in the Head of the Charles Regatta in Cambridge in the fall and "had the best finish of any 'old' Columbia graduate boat," according to Carl. See the nearby photo!

Darryl Pinckney, his partner, James Fenton, and their Harlem home were the subject of the December 29 *New York Times* article "A Story of Love and Obsession": nyti.ms/370oIwF.

Keep the updates coming! We look forward to hearing from you. Submit updates by email or by using the Class Notes webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. If you'd like to share photos, please submit them directly to *CCT* using the Class Notes photo webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo.

1989

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As I write this it seems as if our world is opening up and most of us are enjoying reconnecting and gathering with good friends in ways we haven't been able to during the last two years.



DAVID DINI SIPA'14

A group of alumni gathered at the John Jay Awards Dinner at Cipriani 42nd Street on March 2 to celebrate Michael Barry '89, Wanda Marie Holland Greene '89 and Victor Mendelson '89, three of the six 2020 honorees feted this year. Front row: Kaivan Shakib '89, Frank Seminara '89, Lisa Carnoy '89, Emily Miles Terry '89, Donna MacPhee '89 and Rebecca Fine '89; second row: John MacPhee '89, Raymond Yu '89, Michael Behringer '89, Mendelson, Tom Kamber '89 and Souren Ouzounian '89; third row: Barry, Steve Metalios '89, Tom Yang '89, Duchesne Drew '89 and Ben Metsch GS'89; and top row: Kirk Ruddy '89, Tony Calenda '88 and Thom Chu '89.

Many '89-ers attended the John Jay Awards Dinner in March, which had been postponed from March 2020. Determined to see our deserving classmates receive their long-awaited awards, my husband, Dave Terry '90, and I traipsed to Midtown to celebrate. Our '89 attendance was spectacular — so large, in fact, we couldn't fit at one table, let alone three or four, so we were dispersed throughout the large room. Yet we managed to find each other and come together. Perhaps it was the approaching stepping down as dean of our esteemed Dean James J. Valentini and the fact so many of us had been holed up for two years, or maybe the energy of the deserving recipients, but these awards seemed more ebullient than ever. **Lisa Carnoy** kicked things off by giving an enthusiastic welcome to the crowd. Award recipient **Wanda Marie Holland Greene**'s beautiful singing voice filled the room bringing us together further, despite her distance. As the highly committed head of The Hamlin School, Wanda remained in San Francisco that night to celebrate a reopening of a new campus: "I couldn't miss the first day of school (after seven years of planning and construction!)," she said. Described as a "pioneer in secondary education and champion of student success" by Valentini, Wanda's speech resonated with remembrances of her years as an undergraduate, reflections of her parents and thoughts of how the trajectory of her life was changed by education.

I also really enjoyed **Michael Barry**'s speech. The president and CEO of Ironstate Development, a developer of imaginative and environmentally sustainable commercial and residential properties, Michael spoke of Columbia as a "special place" and acknowledged "the spirit instilled by Columbia that enables us to pursue anything." Michael even managed to work hydrogen fusion into his talk. The event closer was **Victor Mendelson,** co-president of HEICO Corp., an aerospace and electronics company, a University trustee and a person who always lights up the room. Victor thanked Columbia for "taking a chance on a kid from Miami," and commended the "flawless" evening (so true), expressing so much gratitude for the Columbia leadership, his supportive and exemplary family and, of course, the magnificent Class of '89.

Thom Chu, an estate attorney in NYC, had been looking forward to attending the event in 2020, and was able to get there: "Such a thrill to see so many of our CC'89 classmates both as honorees and as supporters of the John Jay National Scholars, the excitement around gathering in person after a two-year delay was absolutely electric!"

Frank Seminara, managing director and private wealth advisor, and global sports and entertainment director at Morgan Stanley, who was sitting somewhere in the Cipriani hinterlands with his son, Luke '23, said, "I just think it is pretty amazing how our class values our time, friendships and legacy at the College to the point where we continue to show up to see each other despite all odds." And congrats to Frank's other son Benjamin, who will be entering Columbia this fall and playing baseball for the Lions, just like his dad did.

Kaivan Shakib, managing director at Morgan Stanley and global head of financial technology wrote, "It was nice to see everyone in person after so long. Some of us had definitely aged better than others. I, for one, barely squeezed into my tux. I was proud to see three '89ers awarded!"

At our table was **Tom Yang,** who's usually having the most fun of all of us (if you don't believe me, follow him on Instagram), but who by day is a managing director and associate general counsel at Bank of America. Tom said, "Not since our 30th reunion did I get to catch up with so many classmates, which felt even sweeter after the world shut down. It was amazing to see such a terrific turnout from the Class of '89 to honor Mike, Wanda and Victor for all their impressive accomplishments. Well deserved!"

From **Raymond Yu** SEAS'90, president of Yuco Management and Real Estate Co.: "I had an incredible time at John Jay with my wife, Amy TC'12, and son, Alex '21. There was so much positive energy and excitement during the event and it felt like everyone was just so relieved and happy to be able to be around other people and share some laughter, food and drinks. It was a great night for Columbia and for alumni to reconnect."

And **Michael Behringer** added, "The greatest joy to be at John Jay. I am so happy for Victor, Mike and

Wanda and appreciate all that they did for Columbia. The whole night also felt like a mini '89 reunion."

Rebecca Fine LAW'93 was pleased to cheer classmates at John Jay. She has built a unique and fascinating career. As the founder of Athena Art Finance, which was acquired by Yieldstreet in 2019, Rebecca is the managing director of art finance, where she offers investors a diversified art collection by a number of artists. Her company's recent fund, dedicated to the Artists of Harlem, highlighted Harlem Renaissance artists through Harlem artists from the present day. Yieldstreet's other noteworthy artists have included Alice Neel, Faith Ringgold, Norman Lewis, Glenn Ligon, Takashi Murakami, Banksy, Amoako Boafo and Mickalene Thomas. Rebecca's career path shouldn't be that much of a surprise as art is in her DNA — her great aunt Rose Fried was the first female gallery owner in NYC, and her mother was an American sculptor, and, satisfyingly for fellow alums, Rebecca was an art history major. Happily, Rebecca says, her son, Marco Balestri '22, graduated this year.

Other classmates in attendance at the John Jay included New York-based actress **Diane Daltner;** John Jay Award recipient and physician **Stephanie Falcone Bernik;** New York City Council member and former University trustee **Julie Jacobs Menin; Tom Kamber; Ed Ruffo; Chris Della Pietra; Steve Metalios,** Joy Kim Metalios SEAS'90; **John MacPhee; Donna MacPhee; Adam Klotz; Souren Ouzounian; Sam Marchiano;** and **Kirk Ruddy.** See the nearby photo!

I also heard from Dr. **Tony Vinals:** "I am proud to announce that last year I opened a modern 1,500-square-meter eye clinic, with two state-of-the-art operating rooms, and all the latest laser and diagnostic technology, in the suburbs of Frankfurt, where I have been practicing since 2007. The practice has a 30-year history of providing care to the area, and my wife, Dr. Lise Pieroth Vinals, and I, along with our partner, opened this clinic and surgical center to better serve the local and regional population. The practice is well known in our state as a main referral center for eye surgery and eye diagnostics. We have a close academic affiliation to the University of Mainz. Our clinic is based in Bad Kreuznach, which was for more than 50 years one of the main headquarters of the U.S. Army in Europe, and is a lovely wine-growing area with rivers and castles. I certainly encourage anyone who is in the region to let me know, and I'll be more than happy to give them a tour of our facilities or provide them care if they wish."

After graduating from the College with a major in biology and a minor in art history, Tony attended Yale School of Medicine, where he was a Farr Scholar, followed by residency in ophthalmology at Harvard Medical School, and then a fellowship at Harvard in complex cataract eye surgery and corneal surgery, where he was also an assistant professor. He can be reached at vinals@augenzentrumkh.de.

I can't end this column without a heartfelt thanks to **Erik Price** for his phenomenal guest column in the Winter 2021–22 issue — his column was so good that many of us have requested, well, begged, for an encore. I so appreciate him and **Cristina Benedetto,** who did a superb job in the Spring/Summer 2021 issue, for stepping up. Who's next?

Also, quick sidebar. I have to thank Erik for recommending Nashville as a great destination for even "older" folks like me and **Amy Rinzler, Kim Harris, Jody Fidler,** Kristine Barakat '88 and Jenna Wright '88, who escaped there for a festive getaway last fall.

One last reminder: our Class of '89 Facebook group is going strong, run by the very committed and enthusiastic **Jared Goldstein:** facebook.com/groups/958657517602821.

1990

Rachel Cowan Jacobs
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A first! I had so much to report in the last issue that I couldn't fit it all in and had to save some news for this column. Thanks for your patience to those whom I bumped.

Dave Hunt reports, "We're adjusting to a fully empty Oregon nest since our kids are both in the San Francisco Bay area. Son Andrew is a software engineer after graduating from Princeton, and daughter Emily is a first-year at UC Berkeley Law after graduating from the University of Oregon. I'm still lobbying the Legislature and now am on the national board for the Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists."

After getting a shout-out in the last column, **Lynn Murphy** was persuaded to send in her own update. "I live in Novato, Calif., which is in Marin County, just north of San Francisco. My wife and I have a blended family of her two boys (16 and 20) and my daughter, Maybell (15). We are both licensed marriage and family therapists. I am the mental health liaison for the San Rafael Police Department. The department created the position in 2013 with the foresight that mental illness should not be handled by law enforcement. It is fascinating and heartbreaking seeing how our system fails so many. I got to present to the California Department of Public Health Officers on the innovative ways that law enforcement can partner with mental health clinicians to better serve those in a mental health crisis. I also have a canine partner to help with the mental health of those in the department and those not in the department. He's a total game changer! I play soccer with a pretty competitive league and I pretend that I can still run as fast as I used to."

Hearing from Lynn gave me the chance to confirm a memory I had of her post-college — that she was a Hollywood stunt person.

"I did, in fact, move to Los Angeles to train as a stunt person!" she says. "I was inspired by watching *American Gladiators* late at night with fellow Furnald 9 friend **Ted Murphy** (no relation, but his claim to fame was his mohawk in our first year!). I said at the time that I was going to be on the show. Well, I pursued the stunt gig for a year and a half until I realized that that job is CRAZY, and I didn't want to die at 23. But, I did get on *American Gladiators*!"

In case you need a reminder about why attending our College reunions is a good idea, read on. From Chicago-based **Adam Grais** (rhyme intended!): "In February 2020, I joined McDonald Hopkins, doing transactional tax and family office work, after spending 15 years at another firm at which I was the managing partner for the last seven years. I am working with **Adam Lindgren** for a client with land use and real estate issues in Northern California. Adam L. and I had reconnected at a reunion a few years ago, which is how I knew he did the type of work I needed help with for this client. I have clients all over the country, so I frequently work with local counsel, particularly in California.

"[Last fall] my wife and I became empty-nesters, with our oldest daughter graduating from Middlebury College and moving to Boston for work and our twin daughters starting their first year of in-person college in Los Angeles — one at USC as a sophomore (after completing her first year online) and the other at Scripps College as a first-year (having deferred last year). I continue drumming and play in a local rock band, Blind Trust (named before I joined the band), and we had our first post-lockdown gig at a bar in Chicago in October."

If you've been reading my column for the past 21 years and have a good memory, you know the dorm and floor I lived on first year. **Andy Greenspan** is the second person from that floor to make an appearance in this column. Prize goes to whoever emails me first with the correct dorm name, floor and other resident we lived with.

From Andy: "After graduation, I had trouble finding employment, so I decided to take pre-med classes and pursue a career that offers intellectual stimulation, positive impact and financial security. I attended Harvard Medical School and was happy to see many fellow Columbians in my class. During those four years, I met my husband, Dr. Ali Amirrezvani MIT'88, made lifelong friends and received excellent training. I yearned to return to NYC and trained in internal medicine at Cornell-New York Hospital. After a brief stint in patient care, I joined the pharmaceutical industry in 2003. I started at Janssen: Pharmaceutical Companies of Johnson & Johnson, and have been there ever since working on drugs for a range of diseases from cancer, to dementia, to chronic autoimmune diseases. I became chief global medical affairs officer for Janssen last fall.

"I still play the clarinet, obsess over the Olympics, stay in touch with many CC'90 friends and enjoy crabbing and clamming on the Jersey Shore. While I have forgotten the Russian and Hungarian that I

studied at Columbia, I have retained the discipline of effective writing and critical thinking, which I learned can take you very far. My email is andygreenspan2468@gmail.com."

By the time you read this, Andy will probably have relocated from Philadelphia to Jersey City, N.J.

Finally, it's **Eric Horwitz** checking in. He still runs the Columbia Career Coaches Network and sits on the Columbia Pride board. His daughter Elizabeth SIPA'23 finished her first year at SIPA, and he recently welcomed his first granddaughter, Nomi Rachel Horwitz.

Mazel tov!

We have many classmates whose children will enroll at Columbia in the fall as members of the Class of 2026 (that's for the next column) and begin learning from esteemed, renowned faculty. One of those professors is **Jennifer Lee,** the Julian Clarence Levi Professor of Social Sciences. Jennifer has been named a Fellow at the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton University for the academic year 2022–23.

On behalf of our class, Jen, I extend you a huge congratulations and best wishes. If you want to borrow my "I was there to break the streak" T-shirt to wear on your first day, let me know. (Seriously, I still have it. It's tucked away in a closet with a few other choice T-shirts I saved from our college days.)

To everyone, I wish you good health and happiness, and don't forget to write!

1991

Heather E.G. Brownlie
heatherhj@yahoo.com

Yours truly, **Heather E.G. Brownlie,** is a now grandmother of three, having welcomed granddaughter Riley Morgan Smith on January 13. Please keep submitting your news and information to me throughout the year! I really appreciate all the updates!

Lee Benaka writes: "I live in Washington, D.C., and have worked for 22 years for NOAA Fisheries, currently as bycatch lead for the agency's National Observer Program. As a religion major, I wrote a senior thesis on ritual and religious imagery in professional wrestling, and I have returned to that area of interest via my recent election to the Executive Committee of the Professional Wrestling Studies Association. I also continue to play fiddle with my bluegrass band, Hollertown. My son graduated from Emory last year, and my daughter is a junior at UC Santa Cruz. My wife has become a skilled stained-glass artist in recent years."

Congratulations to **Michael Gitman** on his appointment as executive director for the Long Island Jewish Medical Center of Northwell Health. Michael summed up his leadership philosophy: "At LIJ, it is our belief that no one should have to leave their community to get world-class care, and we're going to continue to build the programs to provide that care to our local community on Long Island. My father, Paul Gitman '62, was the chief medical officer at LIJ 1999–2007, so it is wonderful to be able to walk the halls that he did and continue his mission of providing service to our community."

Jacqueline Harounian is the managing partner and owner of Wisselman Harounian Family Law in Nassau County, N.Y. The firm was recently recognized as the number 1 family law practice by *Long Island Business News.* Jacqueline was to present the topic "New Frontiers in Creating Families: Surrogacy, Fertility and Reproductive Technology," along with a panel of Columbia physicians and bioethics experts, on April 13.

Justin Kerber checked in: "I wrote my rabbinical thesis, a translation of *Sefer ha-Yirah,* which literally means 'The Book of Fear,' but really 'The Book of Awe,' during my final year of seminary, 2006–07, at the Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati. *Sefer Ha-Yirah* is a short 13th-century essay attributed to Rabbi Jonah ben Avraham of Gerona, Spain, describing how a person should behave from waking in the morning until the end of the day. It emphasizes reverence, awe and love of God, and of remembering God's constant presence. (Many classmates will recognize Rabbi Jonah's better-known brother-in-law Rabbi Moshe ben Nachman, a/k/a Nachmanides.) In fact, **David Wacks** provided me with a translation of the work into Spanish that was published in Holland, probably by Jews who were expelled from Spain in 1492, which was helpful in writing my own translation.

"This is the first time the work has been translated into English, so I always meant to publish it. I have finally done so: It is available at the online Jewish library: sefaria.org/Sefer_HaYirah. I discovered lots of interesting issues in translation and learned some surprising things about Rabbi Jonah's world in 13th-century Spain, especially relating to questions of gender. I've written about them in my translator's preface: sefaria.org/sheets/369925?lang=bi. My wife, Hope, our sons, Eli (17) and Danny (10), and I have lived north of Indianapolis since mid-2019. It proved to be a tricky time to move, but I'm amused by the fact that I once again live between 116th and 125th Streets."

Jon Knapp is the chair of the Columbia Men's Basketball Alumni Advisory Committee at the request of the men's basketball coach, Jim Engles. The group is social, and helps with fundraising, internships and sponsoring events for the Columbia student-athletes, so if you are interested in joining the committee or donating, please contact Jon at knapp.jon@gmail.com or on his cell, 516-673-8084.

Rabbi **Haviva Ner-David** lives on a kibbutz in Galilee and runs the only *mikveh* (ritual immersion pool) in Israel open to all humans to immerse as they choose. She has a thriving spiritual companioning practice, with a specialty in dreamwork, which she also teaches. Haviva came out with two books in 2021. The first is her debut novel, *Hope Valley,* which is the story of the unexpected friendship between two Galilean women, one Palestinian and one Jewish. It takes place in summer 2000, right before the outbreak of the second intifada, with a backstory in 1948 as told through the hidden diary of the Palestinian woman's father. The second is Haviva's third memoir, *Dreaming Against the Current: A Rabbi's Soul Journey,* and is about her journey into interspirituality and dreamwork, from Orthodox Jewish feminist to post-denominational interspiritual rabbi.

It is with great sadness I report that **Mary "Mellie" E. Anderson** died on January 21, 2022, in Sullivan, Maine. Please see "Obituaries."

Rabbi Haviva Ner-David '91 runs the only mikveh (ritual immersion pool) in Israel open to all humans to immerse as they choose.

1992

Olivier Knox
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Classmates! Send me your stories from reunion!

I heard from **Jude Bond.** Make that Mr. Commissioner Jude Bond. In addition to being CEO of Cannaphyll, "America's Strongest Hemp Topicals," which he cofounded in 2017, Jude started his first term as city commissioner of Indian Rocks Beach, a small town on the Gulf Coast of Florida, on April 11. He also recently celebrated 20 years of marriage to Jeni Bond, and has a son in his junior year of high school and a daughter in her first year of college. "I occasionally still make loud music," Jude wrote.

Greg Yahn writes that he and his business partner have been running a flavored nuts company, BobbySue's Nuts, for seven years. "We recently moved the business from New York to Seattle, where our families live, and we have national distribution, most prominently in REI and Kroger with Murray's Cheese deli sections. We are also on Amazon."

And how about **Cary Hall**? He sent in a "quick-and-dirty summary" of life since Morningside Heights. Cary went to the University of Miami School of Law immediately after graduation — "in time to experience Hurricane Andrew firsthand, eek" — then moved to Baltimore for five years. In 2000, he decamped for southeastern Pennsylvania, where he lives and works today. "Established my solo law practice 20 years ago, and still kickin' — doing primarily criminal defense, family law and civil litigation ... and whatever else is needed to bail my friends/fam-

ily out of their various jams," Cary wrote. "Three kids, all grown and flown. Been in and out of various classic rock cover bands for years; my current one, nine years running, is Rougarou (@rougaroubandpa on Facebook). Would love to get together with any other CC'92 alums in my area, especially beer snobs, heh."

That's it for this edition! Please send in your professional and personal news! Write to olivier.knox@gmail.com, with "CCT Class Notes" in the subject line. Don't make me beg on Facebook. Uh, "again."

1993

Neil Turitz
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Nothing but good stuff this issue, which I'm sure is a relief to us all. After last issue's double-barreled news of classmates' deaths, I heard from a bunch of old friends who wanted to share great stuff about themselves and their lives.

Matt Swyers and his family live just outside of Raleigh, N.C. Following a brief hiatus, he returned to run his original startup, The Trademark Company. Matt reports, "Madison, my 20-year-old daughter, won a bunch of state swimming championships, but has hung up her Speedo to focus on her pre-med studies at NC State University, where she's a junior. She plans to go to med school in 2023. Kennedy, my 16-year-old son, a junior in high school and likely heading somewhere for a computer sciences engineering degree, is beginning his college search. We shall see what it has in store for him. Then I will be an empty-nester in a scant 15 months. It flies. Wow, does it fly."

Matt recently published his first book, *The Maverick Method: How to Win the Startup Game from the Man Who Helped Launch More Than 100,000 Businesses*. He says, "It chronicles my experience in founding my original company, and what I learned from helping thousands of businesses to get started. I had a blast writing it and have already started on the sequel."

Linda Appel Lipsius has been living in Denver for years with her husband, Adam, and their two kids. Recently, Linda took over leadership of the Denver Urban Gardens (DUG) program, a 35-year-old organization that is the largest independent community garden organization in the country. "I joined the board, there was some drama and then I stepped in as interim part-time executive director," Linda told me. "Since I've been there, we've built an amazing network of 190 gardens, which we're now maintaining, making sure they're used. The community we serve is super diverse, and it's an incredible opportunity to bring together really different communities and backgrounds."

The DUG grows roughly 650,000 pounds of food a year, 10 percent of which is donated.

"We have about 17,000 gardeners, and about 33 acres under cultivation. What we're trying to do now is just make sure that all the gardens are optimized and serving their communities fully. People can grow whatever they want," she said, then added with a laugh, "except marijuana. Where it gets really cool, though, is when you have immigrant and refugee farmers and gardeners who bring seeds from their home country, and are growing things we've never seen here. And they pass them through the generations. It's so, so cool."

Old friend, fraternity brother and CU basketball legend **Yon Okoro-dudu** reached out to tell me that he's doing well, living in the Southern California town of Redlands. "I've been a high school teacher for 23 years, and a basketball coach at the high school level the whole time," he said, adding, "In 2009, our town opened a new high school and I became the school's first (and only) head varsity basketball coach."

Yon also teaches American government, ethnic studies, Black history, AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) and other courses at the school, and raves that he loves his job. Additionally, he joined with other community leaders to form advocacy groups to fight oppression and bias in all three high school campuses in Redlands. The program is called Students for Change, and Yon is head of the Black Student Union on his own campus.

"My wife, Jana Bailey GS'94, TC'97 and I have been married for 25 years and have two children. Daughter Amira (20) is an executive assistant in New York City, while son Tse (18) played basketball for me at my high school and did so well that he decided to go to boarding school to challenge himself academically and athletically. He is a senior at the Peddie School in New Jersey, has applied to a number of colleges and is still waiting word. Columbia is on the list (fingers crossed)."

Another old pal, **Christine Raker Garcia,** wrote, "I started a role at Two Sigma in November after 10 years at Morgan Stanley. I'm a technical project manager, super happy, feeling valued and happy to be there. So glad to make the change. I was sort of dreading the commute but am happy to be in the office and see people."

Chris posts her morning workouts on social media, every single day, and has been inspiring in how she's transformed her life.

Jacob Kramer GSAS'98 reached out about a friend and classmate, who then decided he didn't want to be included after all. Thus, Jacob talked about himself, which was plenty interesting on its own. He told me, "We have weathered the pandemic OK, no one got sick and we haven't had any real setbacks in terms of loss of jobs or anything. My wife, Sara, works at Teachers College in external relations, and I teach history at BMCC. I had to learn to teach online, but it was kind of fun. Had to do a lot of in-house IT support, which was less fun." He also was sure to mention that he has "two amazing children," and that, while his daughter is going through New York City high school application hell, his son is very proud to have made the Yorkville flag football travel team.

Finally, my good buddy **Alan Freeman** wrote, first to remind us that he and his wife, Remy, are still getting used to life as empty-nesters, and that he's open to suggestions about how to pass the time, especially if travel is involved.

But he also wrote about what sounds like a fantastic event he attended during Columbus Day weekend. I'll let him tell the story:

"Just as the fall foliage season was hitting its stride, Remy and I traveled to the Berkshires for the highly anticipated October wedding of our beloved class correspondent, **Neil Turitz,** to Jessica Goldberg (Dartmouth '03). Theirs is a true Covid-19 love story; it started during some of New York's toughest days in 2020, but the pandemic was no match for true love — or Neil's famous persistence.

"The wedding weekend was a terrific way to emerge from 18 months of hibernation. In addition to meeting the happy couple's non-Columbia friends, I got a chance to catch up with fellow Walt Whitman H.S. alum **Joe Saba** (Go Vikings!); Joe and Jennifer BC'93 (née Fetner) live in Brooklyn with their two kids, and Joe's music production company continues to thrive.

"The welcome dinner was a lovely evening of fantastic barbecue and some grand speeches about both bride and groom. I even got up to say a few words on Neil's behalf, though I may have stretched the truth a little when I was saying the *really* nice things.

"The wedding itself was beautiful, and took place on a farm surrounded by the green, gold and red of autumn. It was gorgeous, and the highlight was seeing the blushing bridegroom (resplendent in three-piece suit, lavender bow tie and matching shoes) eloquently talk about love. This was right before he broke the traditional glass, then threw his new bride over his shoulder as they marched back down the aisle to laughter and applause.

"The reception was great fun, with food trucks, a rocking band, the best wedding cake I've ever tasted and the heartwarming feeling of being surrounded by love. It was a joy to behold and to be a part of it. Yes, friends, our Neil is a happily married man!"

Wow! Sounds like such a wonderful time! Thanks for writing in, Alan, and congratulations to the happy couple!

Thanks also to everyone who reached out this time. I end things as I always do, with a threat. Tell me and classmates about your life, or else I'll be forced to do something drastic, like printing my analysis of the new Mark Wahlberg movie. Nobody wants this, so reach out and say hi!

1994

Leyla Kokmen
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Hello, everyone! It's been an interesting couple of years, hasn't it? Time has gone both painfully slowly and dizzyingly fast during the ever-

evolving pandemic. I acknowledge that my Class Notes scribe duties fell into a distant last place a few times over the past years. I can share that I have never been busier in my career (leading executive and internal communications for the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association during Covid-19 has been a challenge for sure; add on the company's first new CEO in 20 years and ... constant change calls for *lots and lots* of communication). Add to that the remote schooling and general uncertainty. Well, we've all been getting through it.

Here's the thing: I've been writing this column for 28 years. Since we graduated. More than half my life. Maybe it's reprioritization spurred by the pandemic experience, maybe it's turning 50 this year, but I realized this year that it's time to pass the baton. This will be my last Class Notes column. Lisa Palladino, the executive editor of *CCT,* is searching for my replacement. If you're interested, please reach out to her at cct@columbia.edu. I know one of you will bring fresh eyes and voice to it. And I promise to send in updates whenever you call for submissions!

[Editor's note: Until we have a new CC'94 class correspondent, please send your Class Notes to us via the Class Notes webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. If you'd like to share photos, please submit them via the Class Notes photo webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo.]

I'm happy to report that my last edition has A LOT of news, so many, many thanks to all who wrote in.

Denise Wallen sent in a fabulous set of updates, noting that as many of us turn "the big 5-0 this year," there is plenty to celebrate. Denise lives in Yonkers, N.Y., with her husband and three daughters and works in business transformation and acceleration for Tapestry. She will also be honored as a distinguished alumna of DeWitt Clinton H.S in the Bronx this year. She also shared that congratulations are in order for Professor **Miriam Gohara,** who was granted tenure and recently promoted to clinical professor of law at Yale. Miriam spent 16 years representing death-sentenced clients in post-conviction litigation, first as assistant counsel at the NAACP Legal Defense Fund and then as a specially designated federal public defender with the Federal Capital Habeas Project. Denise also shared the great news that **Imara Jones** was recently recognized by Politico as one of the 40 most influential people at the intersection of politics and race for her investigative reporting on her Anti-Trans Hate Machine podcast.

Denise also shared an update from **David Myers,** who spent the bulk of his career since graduation in youth and workforce development, delivering federal worker training programs through partnerships with environmental justice organizations, the carpenters union, Habitat for Humanity and the New York City Housing Authority. David said he has also dabbled in spoken word performance poetry, winning the New York Foundation for the Arts Artist Fellowship for poetry and facilitating an online writers group called MelaNation. He and his wife, Rajeeyah, have a son, Zion (10), and a daughter Zora (3). David lives in Harlem and is an administrative staff analyst with the City of New York.

Denise also shared that **Sharene Wood** (née Barnett) continues to give back to the Harlem community as she continues to grow and expand her company as the CEO of Wood Enterprises. Most recently, her company sponsored the "Harlem Is the Future" mural on West 135th Street and 5th Avenue at P.S. 197. "She appears on many podcasts and sits on various panels to speak on her experiences as a Black executive, all while empowering and motivating others," Denise writes.

Sharene herself also sent an update: "Happy to report my spirits brand company — HH Bespoke Spirits, which includes an award-winning and critically acclaimed portfolio of rum, gin and vodka — expanded to HH Bespoke Spirits & Beverages during the pandemic and now includes Bespoke Water, an alkaline bottled water product. I'm celebrating 15 years of marriage to my business partner and husband, Guy Wood. And our beautiful daughter, Sydney, is headed to high school next year. Excited to turn 50 this year along with lots of classmates."

Tania Secor writes that she "wanted to send a huge congrats to most of our classmates turning 50! **Stacy Marano** and Shelly Sima Toussi BC'94 and I had a great time celebrating together our 50th, reliving the glory days on Baker Field. Go, Lions."

Lots of other classmates shared continued connections to Columbia. **Naomi Molner** lives in New York City and is a utilization review management physician for eviCore. "I recently enrolled in a continuing medical education course at Columbia," Naomi writes. "I have four children: two sons who are sophomores in high school and two daughters, 14 and 12."

Danicia Ambron writes that she has never left New York and still teaches yoga — "since 1995 so I am considered a senior teacher, ugh!" Danicia closed her studio in the early 2000s and now works privately, leads retreats and teaches programs for both the CU women's swim team and soccer team on- and off-season. She also was an adjunct professor at Barnard for its phys ed department, teaching yoga to freshmen.

"Keeping with my theme of only doing what you love, I also turned my passion for rescuing dogs into a second career by becoming a dog trainer and then a canine behavior consultant," Danicia writes. "I was the trainer for a municipal city shelter for five years and am now heading up the behavior program at a private nonprofit rescue in Armonk, N.Y. I am super grateful to be able to help improve quality of life for people and dogs in many different ways ... and to never have to wear uncomfortable clothes! My son finished his freshman year and is wrestling for WPI in Worchester, Mass. I am psyched he can eat again after cutting weight non-stop: Shoutout to all you former wrestlers whom I somehow never knew went through that insanity. I bounce between Westchester and NYC, and surf at Long Beach and Gilgo beach, so reach out if you want to paddle around with me."

Some of our classmates' Columbia connections are continuing into the next generation. **Marina Groothuis** (née Gurin) shares that the biggest news for her and **Erik Groothuis** is that both their girls will be at Columbia. "Maya '26 will join Maddie '24 in the fall," Marina writes. "We are now a pride of lions." **Alex Metzger** and **Ritu Metzger** (née Mukerji)'s son Lucas '26 will also attend Columbia in the fall, Alex writes, "and we hope he will love his experience as much as we did. I secretly hope he'll be placed on the 12th floor of Carman, but that might cause my head to explode." Alex and Ritu enjoy living in Marin County practicing medicine and raising their three kids.

Yury Dubinsky writes, "I hadn't been back on campus since the '90s, but visited in August with my twin daughters. Anna will attend NYU and Nina will be at Indiana University. Traveling to NYC for work, and had dinner with **Mark Salzberg** recently. Would be great to reconnect with others."

Andrew Rasmussen sent a note that he is married to Lina Villegas (a physician from Colombia, not Columbia) with two boys, Edward (7) and Martin (3), and lives in Brooklyn. Andrew was recently promoted to full professor at Fordham, where he has been on the psychology faculty since 2012.

Christine Philliou sent in her first update, sharing that after teaching for many years at Columbia, she is now professor of Middle East/Ottoman history at UC Berkeley. "My book *Turkey: A Past Against History* came out in 2021; it's a history of the idea of opposition and dissent in 20th-century Turkey and quite relevant to a lot of what is going on these days in Turkey and beyond. I'm also running a collaborative digital project, İstanPόλις, the goal of which is to reconstruct the histories of the Greek community of Istanbul in the 19th and 20th centuries (looking for the 'polis' in Ottoman Istanbul, that is)."

She encourages everyone to check out istanpolis.org, as they welcome ideas and volunteers.

From further down the California coast, **Placid Anissa Bone** writes from Los Angeles, where she and her partner, Bryonn Bain '95, live. "We have three boys," she writes. "One is attending Howard. I'm a doctor in emergency medicine at a local trauma center stamping out death and disease. My book, *Mortality and Magic—Facts & Fairytales for the Hereafter,* is a humorous guide to dying. Bryonn is a professor at UCLA, directing its prison education program and teaching in African American Studies, the School of the Arts and the Law School. His new book *Rebel Speak: A Justice Movement Mixtape,* was to drop May 19, with a foreword by revolutionary Angela Davis. His

solo show is also going to Broadway: lyricsfromlockdown.com.

David T. Ho GSAS'01 shares that he has been living in Paris, working on the science of climate change and climate solutions.

Suzy Shuster writes, "After spending most of 2020 working behind the scenes for The Lincoln Project, writing and producing some of its most impactful and news-making ads, I launched Magnetic Media Group, which consults and crafts political ad campaigns and strategies. In my sports lane, I launched Just Getting Started with Westwood One/Cumulus Podcast Network/Rich Eisen Productions, which delves into origin stories from the world of sports, entertainment and business. I still fill in for my husband, Rich, on his three-hour daily show, which allows a fantastic escape from our three kids."

Frank Scaturro is co-editing *Grant at 200: Reconsidering the Life and Legacy of Ulysses S. Grant,* a book of essays on Ulysses S. Grant being published for Grant's 200th birthday this year. It will include essays by leading Grant scholars, offering "fresh perspectives on Grant's military career and presidency, as well as underexplored personal topics such as his faith and his family life." Proceeds will support the Ulysses S. Grant Association and the Grant Monument Association.

And finally, a succinct update from **Robert-Paul Sagner,** one of the most amusing of the past 28 years: "I got an Instant Pot!"

Thanks everyone, for sharing your lives with me for so many years. It's certainly bittersweet to hang up my notebook/keyboard on this, but I'm happy to pass it on to the next great class correspondent. See you on the other side of Class Notes. xoxo

1995

Janet Lorin
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Congratulations to **Grant Dawson** (a fellow Wien resident hall advisor junior year), who published his book, *Humans on the Move: Integrating an Adaptive Approach with a Rights-Based Approach to Climate Change Mobility.*

"I was happy to see that the Biden administration recently issued a policy paper on the same topic, which adopted the proposals set forth in the book. So we are starting to get on the right track with this urgent and important issue," wrote Grant, who is based in the Hague.

After finishing seven years as the legal advisor of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, Grant became the senior legal adviser and chief of cabinet at the United Nations Special Tribunal for Lebanon, which issued the Appeal Judgment in the Rafik Hariri Assassination-Terrorist Bombing case (bit.ly/3x0O2gO).

He is working on his next book, which deals with international law and sea-dumped chemical weapons. He regularly speaks at international conferences.

You can see the full scope of what Grant's been up to on LinkedIn: bit.ly/3x6z2hd.

My apologies to **Sadri Shadman** for forgetting to mention his update in the Winter 2021–22 issue. Shadri is from Iran, but mostly grew up in Paris and Montreal and transferred to the College from McGill in our sophomore year, where he was among the first to major in economics-philosophy. He returned to Montreal for dental school and then returned to New York, where he has been a general dentist in the New York area for many years and still lives on the Upper West Side.

Congrats to **Dan Petroski,** who wins accolade after accolade for his Massican wine label, which he describes as bringing a refreshing, bright style of Mediterranean white wines to California. *Food & Wine* magazine named him Drinks Innovator of the Year in March.

Here's how the *San Francisco Chronicle* describes Massican: "Not that the Massican wines are identical to each other. Each wine performs its distinctions: a tart Sauvignon Blanc; a citrusy Chardonnay; a textured Pinot Bianco and Greco blend, called Gemina; a perfumed, mineral cuvee based on Ribolla Gialla and Tocai Friulano, called Annia. Yet they all, somehow, taste like Massican. Like paintings in a series, cast from the same color palette yet individual, the pieces cohere."

My husband, Scott, and I had the chance to catch up with Dan this spring at a Massican event at King restaurant.

Dan left his job as the longtime winemaker at Larkmead Vineyards — where Scott and I visited him many years ago — to focus on his own wines.

Congrats, Dan!

And a brief congratulations to two friends:

Shahrzad Elghanayan '94 published *Titan of Tehran: From Jewish Ghetto to Corporate Colossus to Firing Squad — My Grandfather's Life,* a book that tells the story of her grandfather, "a self-made industrialist and the foremost Jew of his time in Iran, whom the Islamic theocracy targeted as the first civilian executed during the 1979 revolution." Shahrzad is a senior photo editor at NBC News.

François Furstenberg '94 is a professor of history at The Johns Hopkins University, where his research explores the history of the United States and the Atlantic World in the 18th and 19th centuries. He lives in Baltimore with his partner, Yliette Guzman, and their girls (4 and 6). Francois is the author of two books, *In the Name of the Father: Washington's Legacy, Slavery, and the Making of a Nation* and *When the United States Spoke French: Five Refugees who Shaped a Nation.* He's on sabbatical this fall in Montreal.

Please share your news and updates by emailing me or by using the Class Notes webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. If you'd like to share photos, please submit them directly to *CCT* using the Class Notes photo webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo.

1996

Ana Salper
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Greetings, classmates!

Congratulations to **Keith Simon,** one of 88 members of the American Institute of Architects elevated to the College of Fellows in 2022. This prestigious honor is awarded to individuals who have made significant contributions to architecture and society on a national level; only about 3 percent of AIA's more than 94,000 members hold this distinction (bit.ly/3r7B78X).

Omar Sayed is in Surrey, England, with his wife and three boys. He is a senior portfolio manager at Millennium Capital, running an event driven strategy. Lately Omar and his family have been into space a lot, viewing the stars through a telescope, visiting the Royal Observatory in Greenwich for the space show and even making a small investment in the Axiom Space Station. Omar writes that he was sad that our 25th reunion had to be virtual but is hoping for normal human contact at future reunions or maybe an opportunity to meet Columbians in the metaverse!

Stefania Van Dyke (née Rosenstein) is an associate director at the Denver Art Museum and oversees the interpretive engagement division, a team of museum educators who work in partnership with curators to envision and execute how the museum presents artworks in its galleries. Last fall, the museum reopened its historic building (the only completed building in the United States by Italian architect and designer Gio Ponti) after four-plus years of renovation. The renovated building houses all of the museum's permanent collections, so Stefania's team reimagined the stories the museum tells and the methods by which it tells them, across the board. Stefania hopes that any CC'96 classmates who visit will let her know so she can say hi (svandyke@denverartmuseum.org)!

Mary Carmel works for the Chicken Alley Thrift Shop in Martha's Vineyard, which benefits Martha's Vineyard Community Services, a social service umbrella organization that houses an array of mental health, youth and family, disability domestic and sexual violence, senior, substance abuse disorder, peer recovery support and veterans services.

I had a great time hanging out with **Julie Satow** SIPA'01 and **Mirella Cheeseman** in NYC a few months ago. Mirella, who was back for a brief visit to NYC, lives in Rome and is head of international development for the Italian production company Wildside SRL. Julie signed a book deal for her second narrative nonfiction book, on the birth of American fashion and the rise and fall of the department store, told through the lives of three women who led the industry in the 1930s through the 1980s. Julie recently saw **Eric Cleary,** who is a neighbor of hers in the West Village and is associate general counsel at Omnicom Group.

Our beloved class president, **Uchenna Acholonu,** attended the

March wedding of **Dan Hess** and Deena Bahu, who were married in a beautiful ceremony in Yonkers. Uchenna writes: "In attendance were nine members of the legendary Carman 8 cohort and 10 Carman residents in total. Such a good time! Could not have happened to a nicer couple. On a personal note, Dan and I graduated together from elementary school, high school and college. To know him is to love him."

Congratulations, Dan and Deena! Check out the great wedding shot in "Just Married!," where you can see the rest of the Carman crew: **Matt Wirz, Adam Sinclair SEAS'96, Bich-Nga Nguyen, Thomas Humphries, Dan Lin, Ravi Iyer, Arnold Kim** and **Brendan Killackey.**

Here's to a long, sunny, healthy summer! I leave you with this:

"I was within and without, simultaneously enchanted and repelled by the inexhaustible variety of life."

— F. Scott Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby*

1997

Kerensa Harrell
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Dear classmates, I hope that you all had a pleasant winter and spring, and that everyone is in good health.

It is my pleasure to present the following update from **Rushika Richards Conroy** HN'00, who has been quite the busy bee keeping up with a bunch of classmates.

"Sadly, with Covid-19, we could not see people for a while. As more and more friends and family were vaccinated and restrictions were lifted a bit we have been able to, which has been wonderful. My first visit was to see **Lisa Ackerson SEAS'97** (née Gustafson). She lives in Connecticut with her husband and three little ones. I have also been in touch with a bunch of people but haven't been able to see them in a while. **Matt Wang** is in NYC with his wife and twin girls. In November I visited **Naveena Ponnusamy** and stayed in her new home in Los Angeles. She hosted a fun dinner with **Carrie Mezvinsky** (née Bass), **Michelle Salcedo, Kip Hamilton** and Sam Nouri '98. Carrie moved from Spain to southern California last summer with her husband and three kids. She is home full time raising the little ones and is hopeful that she will be able to stay put in California for the long haul. She has moved quite a bit through the years, from Kentucky to Texas to Russia to Florida to Spain!

"Tara Nolting BC'97 (née Gallagher) is in Illinois. She is a family medicine physician and lives there with her husband and three kids. I was able to pay a quick visit to **Zaharah Markoe,** who is in Florida with her husband and two kids. She is an attorney. Last summer I saw **Jake Kemeny** in New Jersey. He is there with his wife and two kids. It was nice to catch up for a bit, as we hadn't seen each other since his and my youngest were born. I also spent a few weekends with Uchenna Acholonu '96 last summer. First was at his wife's family reunion in the Catskills and then at the US Open. He is a gynecologist in New York and lives there with his wife and two kids.

"Oh, and last random encounter: **Adam Honig** and I reunited in western Massachusetts, when we found each other on a Zoom call that was for our kids' school. It turns out we are sending our kids to the same junior high and high school! He and his wife have two kids, and he works at Amherst."

See the nearby photo from Rushika of her, **Naveena Ponnusamy, Carrie Mezvinsky** (née Bass) and **Michelle Salcedo** in Los Angeles at a dinner party last November in Naveena's home.

Raji Kalra shares the following: "I married Joe Potente in December 2020, pandemic-style. Rather than postpone, we pivoted to a virtual wedding (and not just a Zoom wedding; we had a full film crew with sound and various camera angles). It wasn't the celebration we had envisioned but it was amazing to include folks who normally would not have been able to attend in person. It was live-streamed and had more than 400 attendees. In-person there were only six guests including the bride and groom and just as many staff between the film and set crew and pandit. It was before the vaccine so it was outdoors and cold but still memorable. There were more than 15 CC, SEAS and BC alums in attendance virtually. We live on the UWS in NYC but are looking to move to the suburbs in the near future. Joe has a band and with that comes many instruments and equipment that doesn't really fit in a NYC apartment. We also adopted a cat, Jynx, in early March 2020. I was looking forward to catching up in person with many classmates at our 25th reunion."



CC'97 friends (left to right) Naveena Ponnusamy, Carrie Mezvinsky (née Bass), Rushika Richards Conroy and Michelle Salcedo met for dinner on November 1 at Ponnusamy's Los Angeles home.

Kerri Stone recently published the book *Panes of the Glass Ceiling: The Unspoken Beliefs Behind the Law's Failure to Help Women Achieve Professional Parity*. She writes: "My husband, Josh, and I live in Coconut Grove (Miami), Fla. We are the proud parents of Dylan Jacob (9) and Marlee Dina (6), and I am a professor at the FIU College of Law."

As for me, **Kerensa Harrell,** I enjoyed a fun-filled Halloween last fall with my daughter, Amara (5). There were literally a couple thousand trick-or-treaters who descended upon our neighborhood (after all, we live in a town called Celebration!), and the two of us were delighted to drop candy to them via a tube from our second-floor balcony. Amara dressed up as Moana (for whom she was a dead ringer) and I took her trick-or-treating around our neighborhood. After we had recovered from Halloween, I rented a hall and had a big birthday bash for her to celebrate having turned 5. She loved her pumpkin-themed cake and her piñata. Then came winter break, and we went to my brother Ben's house on Christmas Day. We also would have gone to my father's house, but unfortunately he got stuck in Roatán, Honduras, with ear problems from too much diving so he was unable to fly back in time.

I've been staying busy with taking Amara to her various activities while I am still a stay-at-home mom. I have her enrolled in Girl Scouts (as a Daisy), Cub Scouts (as a Lion), four dance classes (ballet, tap dance, creative dance and tumbling), two foreign languages with private tutors (French and Sign Language), martial arts (Korean tae kwon do) and two sports teams (tee ball and a cheerleading squad for basketball). I am dreading August when I will have to let her go to kindergarten, but luckily her school is only a five-minute walk from our home.

As I finish this column it is March. I'm planning to fly to NYC in June for our 25th reunion, which, by the time you read this issue, will have occurred. If you attended, please do write to let us know about your experience. And feel free to share your reunion, or other, photos with *CCT,* as long as there are at least two College alumni pictured (or one, if a member of the wedding couple, for "Just Married!"): college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo.

I wish you all a lovely summer! In honor of our reunion, I will cue our fight song, "Roar, Lion, Roar" as I sign off.

In lumine Tuo videbimus lumen.

1998

Sandie Angulo Chen
sandie.chen@gmail.com

We have two "book birthdays" to celebrate:

Rachel Mazor, who lives in Brooklyn, sent in a note that her book, *111 Places for Kids in NYC That You Must Not Miss*, was published on April 8. "Alums might be pleased to see old haunts Koronet Pizza, The Hungarian Pastry Shop and the Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine among the places listed!" she wrote.

In February, **Clarence A. Haynes** had his first book, *The Legacy of Jim Crow*, a short middle-grade nonfiction title that's part of Penguin Workshop's new True History series, published. According to Clarence, the project looks at how discriminatory laws impacted African-American lives and the United States in general, shaping everything from migration and neighborhood development to prisons/policing and pop culture. The aim is to get young readers to look at history holistically, getting away from positioning the past as a decontextualized list of dates and facts, while unabashedly celebrating Black excellence and creativity.

Joshua Ratner LAW'02 recently began a position as the rabbi of Congregation Beth El in Fairfield, Conn. After spending several years working for nonprofits, he says he is excited to be back in a pulpit where he can develop powerful connections with individuals and families in his community.

Congratulations are also in order for Joshua, whose eldest son, Dimitri, stated at Tulane this past fall. With three more children to go, Joshua is holding out hope that one of them will end up at Columbia!

Christina Rapp Prescott wrote from Westchester County: "After living in Colorado, Connecticut, Massachusetts and Maryland since graduation, I am very excited to be back in New York! Last summer, I started as the vice-chair for education and the director of the Cornea Service at NYU. My husband and three children are all loving New York. I'm hoping to reconnect with classmates now that I am closer!"

Condolences to the family and friends of **Neil Suresh Patel SEAS '98,** SEAS'00, who died on January 6, 2022, at 45. Neil was a lightweight rower and an active member of the Columbia crew community. He graduated from SUNY Downstate Medical Center in Brooklyn, completed a residency in ophthalmology at the New York Ear and Eye Infirmary of Mount Sinai and then a fellowship in vitreoretinal diseases and surgery at UC Irvine School of Medicine. Neil returned to New York City and was the president and founder of New York Ophthalmology. He was an avid reader, surfer and rooftop gardener. He will be greatly missed.

Thank you, **Ted Rebholz,** for letting us know. Ted and his family live in Wellesley, Mass., down the street from **Dave Mack.**

Please send updates to me via the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note, and they'll be in a future column!

1999

Lauren Gershell
lauren@gershell.com

I was thrilled to hear the following updates from classmates; please keep them coming!

Rebecca Sheir wrote: "After 12 years as an NPR reporter and host, I had a baby, quit my full-time job and formed an audio-production company with my composer/sound-designer husband, Eric Shimelonis. Since 2017, we've been producing Circle Round: the acclaimed children's storytelling podcast distributed by WBUR (Boston's NPR station). We have a new line of Circle Round picture books coming out this summer. Last October, in collaboration with Tinkercast, Amazon and Wondery, we debuted another podcast for kids: Who When Wow!, a weekly show that takes listeners on an auditory journey into the lives of unsung heroes, heroines, and other amazing humans who make us say 'WOW!'"

Stacy Rotner shared that her connection with **Kay Rokhsar, Elana Weinberg Poulter, Rikki Solowey Javitch, Kimberly Singh SEAS'99,** Jennifer Kritz '98 and Brett King Grossman BC'98 got even stronger during the Covid-19 lockdown and restrictions. While the women had to cancel their annual trip, they continued daily texting on their group thread, held regular Zooms, did a Secret Santa gift exchange and attended a remote cooking class to celebrate a birthday. They are hoping to resume traveling together this year, and Stacy notes that while many relationships suffered because of distance and the inability to get together during Covid, their friendships flourished.

How wonderful!

Adrienne Lehman Buckley lives with her husband, their three children and their 1-year old German Shepherd/Husky puppy. She has been homeschooling since September 2020 and loves it. Previously she was a NICU RN, primarily at Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital (formerly Children's Hospital of of New York), for about 10 years before her eldest child was born.

Ben Freeman shared the following: "My wife, Sinéad, and I live in London with our four children, who are all under 7, so it's a full house! I trade commodities for a merchant business, focusing on critical supply chain materials such as oil, liquid natural gas and base metals. Looking forward to the 25th year reunion!"

2000

Columbia College Today
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[Editor's note: *CCT* thanks **Prisca Bae** for her 22 years as class correspondent. If you are interested in taking on this role, please send a note to cct@columbia.edu.]

East to West coast changes for **Kim Fisher Warren** BUS'17. Kim took a job at Apple in Cupertino, Calif., and relocated there with and her husband and son. They love the weather! She recently met up with **Jaime Sanders Tarasov** and **Nida Qadir Westfield** and says she was looking forward to seeing **Kim Worly Salzman** in May, too! She adds, "Hope everyone is healthy and made it through two years of Covid-19!"

Annie Ulevitch shares: "After 15 post-Columbia years in NYC, I moved back to California in 2015 and have called San Francisco home since then. After practicing law (criminal defense) and working in K–12 education (not as a lawyer), I am lucky to have found myself at Hirsch Philanthropy Partners, a Bay Area-based advising firm where I get to work with an amazing team to partner with foundations and families seeking to make a meaningful impact on their community and the world around them.

"After far too long without a visit to NYC, **Susie Kaufman** (née Freeman) and I met for a whirlwind weekend visit to the city in October. Aside from eating all of our favorite foods and visiting some of our favorite spots, we enjoyed a fantastic evening of theater and dinner with **Juliet Ross.** Amazing to think we met in John Jay during Orientation and have been friends for more than two decades!"

Lainy Destin writes from Quebec: "Last summer, I was honored to join the Board of Columbia College Women (CCW) as its first international member. I'm a member of the Mentorship Committee. I plan to contribute my experience and insights to bring international alumnae into CCW's tent of empowerment and support. As well, I'd like to increase CCW's presence in the lives and development of women at the College, in collaboration with student and alumni organizations across the University."

Madeline Tomasino-Reed, managing attorney at the Children's Law Project of Hawai'i, writes that she "was recently honored with the Rhoda Lewis Award for dedicating my career to public service."

The annual award, named after the first female member of the Hawai'i Supreme Court, is given by The Hawaii Women's Legal Foundation and is "to a woman attorney who has devoted her career to public service," and is in recognition of the recipient's extraordinary contribution and commitment to the field.

Rich Ciancimino, an 11-Time Emmy Award-winning sports television producer during his time at ESPN and MLB Network, shares that he was recently recognized by the prestigious Cynopsis Sports Media Awards for Best Webisode Series for his latest project, "The Mayor's Office With Sean Casey." Moving from behind the camera to on-air producer, Rich teamed up with former MLB All-Star Sean Casey for a show that is part podcast, part broadcast. It can be found on all streaming platforms, including YouTube and ITunes Podcasts.

Thanks to those who shared their exciting news and updates! If you would like to send in a note, please write to cct@columbia.edu or use the Class Notes webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. We also welcome photos that feature at least two CC alumni for Class Notes, and one CC alum — a member of the couple — for "Just Married!" photos: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo.

2001

Jonathan Gordin
jrg53@columbia.edu

Hi everyone!

I was happy to hear from **Jeff Senter,** who announced "a bit belatedly, since she is 1, the birth of our wonderful daughter, Lillian."

Ben Ryan reports, "After sustaining a brief bout of cancer, including surgery during Christmas, I swiftly got a clean bill of health and went back to writing about other people's health problems, reporting about Covid-19 as well as climate change matters for outlets such as NBC News, *The Guardian,* Thomson Reuters Foundation and *The New York Times* (benryan.net and @benryanwriter on Twitter)."

Courtney Reum wrote with joyful news that **Tamar Makary** and his wife, Anahi, celebrated the baptism of their fifth child, daughter Maxima. Courtney is the godfather.

Congratulations!

Anna Rozentul (née Smirnov) reports, "Got my medical degree in 2002 and am an urgent care physician. The past two years have not been fun with Covid-19 but we got through them! I live in Fort Lee, N.J., and am married with two teen sons. Time sure flies! My eldest is already looking at colleges; he will apply next year. I hope he will be a Columbian. Fingers crossed."

Ben Wheeler writes, "My wife, **Kate Cortesi,** and I have weathered the pandemic so far, with several members of our family getting sick, but everyone is OK. I am getting a master's in education at Harvard (it turns out everyone's just making it up as they go along; who knew?) and working at Scratch, a free kids' computer programming website that I encourage other parents to try! Kate has had several of her plays produced in New York and in regional theaters in the last year, and is developing several more projects. Our daughters, Carmen (12) and Nina (10), fried their brains watching *Squid Game* and have to be threatened and cajoled to do even minor chores.

"I try to keep up with **Ashran Jen**'s family, Molly Lederer '06's family, **Sofia Berger** SEAS'02's family, Melissa Wells '03's family, **Ben Ben Tre**'s entrepreneurship and Alice Boone BC'02's brilliant education and curation work at the UVM Museum. From afar I try to follow the organizing and healing work of adrienne maree brown '00 and Dani McClain '00, JRN'06, and Ben Casselman '03's labor reporting in *The New York Times.* Still loving watching Brandon Victor Dixon '03 onstage, and dreaming of someone making the great Paul Robeson LAW 1923 opera/Broadway/NFL/activism biopic.

"As we write, hundreds of thousands of people are fleeing danger in Ukraine and in other countries, and many Columbia folks are organizing aid. We want to send our support to them and to denounce imperialist violence in all its forms."

Recently my wife, Jamie, and I went to an event and ran into **Colleen Goldberg** (née O'Malley); it was lovely to catch up. Colleen and her husband, Andrew '00, reside in Los Angeles with their two kids. Andrew is a TV writer.

Jamie and I also recently caught up with **Marla Zink, Kim Bosse** and **Marc Dunkelman** over Zoom. Sure, in-person would have been better, but it still worked. Kim says she is excited to open her newest Birch Road Cellar location in Denver and Marc is busy with writing projects. Marla is busy with her law practice. We spent a lot of time talking about summer camps. It was great to catch up (even though they teased me that I'd likely include the Zoom in this column, and they were right).

Have a great summer, and keep classmates informed about your fall plans!



2002

Sonia Hirdaramani
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Rupal Patel's new non-fiction book, *From CIA to CEO: Unconventional Life Lessons for Thinking Bigger, Leading Better, and Being Bolder,* was to release in May. It is a business and lifestyle book that distills all of the life and leadership techniques she developed and honed at the CIA and as the founder of two businesses. The book is primarily aimed at female leaders, founders and changemakers, but the lessons are applicable to — and valuable for! — all.

Ben Letzler recently moved with family to an inner suburb of Vienna to pursue a Ph.D. in international law. He would be delighted to hear from everyone, especially, but not only, if they will be in Vienna.

Elizabeth V. Alicea lives in Brooklyn with her husband and two Shih Tzus. She is an attorney and a real estate broker with Compass, and is working on a memoir about her childhood in Chicago.

Please share news with me by email or by using the Class Notes webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. If you'd like to share photos, please submit them directly to *CCT* using the Class Notes photo webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo.

2003

Michael J. Novielli
mjn29@columbia.edu

It's great to see that so many countries are opening up and allowing international travel once again. I'm personally grateful for having been able to return to New York City to see family and friends after two and a half years. Our alumni continue to do great things throughout the world, even during such trying times, and I'm happy to share news about a few of them:

During the pandemic, **Adam B. Kushner** and his wife, attorney Maria Simon, had a third child; their boys now span a 10-year age gap. This winter, after eight years spent running *The Washington Post*'s Outlook section — its home for ideas, essays, arguments and nonfiction book criticism, which won a Pulitzer Prize during his editorship — Adam became the newspaper's education editor. In the periods between variant surges, he says he has enjoyed working in an office again.

La Marr Jurelle Bruce published *How to Go Mad without Losing Your Mind: Madness and Black Radical Creativity,* a study of "madness" in Black art-making, self-making and world-making since the 20th century. La Marr is an associate professor of American studies at the University of Maryland, College Park.

Matthew Continetti is a senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute, where he wrote his latest book, *The Right: The Hundred-Year War for American Conservatism,* published in April.

Jennifer Lauture writes, "I manage a line of research for Charles Schwab that looks at people of color, highlighting demographics and trends in investing to provide a more tailored experience."

Dawn Jackson writes, "I've expanded my work in mental health by joining the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health and was honored to represent the department at Dodger Stadium in early March. I encourage anyone in the Los Angeles area who is interested in learning more about who to contact to access presentations, outreach or services to please contact me: djackson@dmh.lacounty.gov.

"I've also have taken up the position as Los Angeles Platoon Leader for the Mission Continues, a national nonprofit that empowers veterans to continue to serve in their local communities. For more information, please contact me: djackson@missioncontinues.org.

"Courtney Wilkins '07 has been instrumental in keeping SoCal alumni connected through programming and for the fourth year in

a row I've been on the Alumni Representative Committee, where I had the pleasure of interviewing five impressive Los Angeles-area student candidates in February.

"It was a surreal experience as an African-American former athlete to experience the Rams win Super Bowl LVI on their home turf and produce a legendary halftime show on their own terms. I invite everyone to take a moment to reflect on the everyday perseverance of Black student-athletes, including the history-making skill that Johnathan Reese '02 brought to the 1998–2002 Lions football team along with a loving memory: Kirk Mullings '04, whom *Spectator* named Columbia's own 'Superfan,' also participated in games as a walk-on and whom the world sadly lost on March 2, 2009."

Thanks to those who shared their news and updates! If you would like to share yours, please reach out by email or use the Class Notes webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. And *CCT* welcomes photos that feature at least two CC alumni (one if for the "Just Married!" section): college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo.

Amparo Garcia '05 is on her fourth tour as a State Department Foreign Service officer at the U.S. Embassy in Phnom Penh.

2004

Jaydip Mahida
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David Johns TC'22 graduated from Columbia (again) this past May with a Ph.D. in sociology and education policy. His dissertation was titled *By Any Means Necessary: Supporting Black Queer Public School Students in the United States.*

Andrew Lebwohl LAW'07 writes, "In November I started a job with the New York State Housing Finance Agency, arranging financing for affordable housing development. This spring, I celebrated the 70th birthday of my father, Mark Lebwohl '74. My children, Ronan (7) and Dakota (5), are healthy, happy kids who attend the Abraham Joshua Heschel School on the UWS."

Jessica Schenk and her husband, Keith Rudofsky, welcomed daughter Michelle Sapir on September 17 in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. Keith and Jessica also have daughter Talyah Simone (6).

Andrea E. Channing Kung Starrett is attending the Eisenhower School of National Security and Resource Strategy (formerly known as ICAF), part of National Defense University (NDU), for a master's in national security and resource strategy. She writes: "It's been interesting, enlightening and eye-opening in many respects, especially these last few tumultuous months, with great classmates. It makes me reminisce of times at Columbia and the intellectual discussions. If you ever get an opportunity to attend NDU, I strongly recommend it!"

That's all for this issue. Please send in updates, as we want to hear from as many folks as possible. Career and family updates are always fun, but please reach out to share about trips you might take, events you have attended or are looking forward to, or even interesting books or shows you have come across. You can send updates either via email or via the Class Notes webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. And *CCT* welcomes photos that feature at least two CC alumni (one if for the "Just Married!" section): college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo.

2005

Sallie Touma
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Thank you to those who replied to my email asking for news!

Juliet Grames was presented the Ellery Queen Award from the Mystery Writers of America, a career recognition award, for her editorial work at Soho Press. She also sold her second novel for publication in 2023. It is a literary mystery tentatively titled *The Lost Boy of Santa Chionia* and is the story of an accidental immigrant detective (a Barnard grad!) in a mafia-infested mountain village in 1960s Italy.

Elizabeth Dwoskin JRN'09 is a Silicon Valley correspondent for *The Washington Post.*

Great news for **Lindsay Joelle** on her new play: "Excited to share that *TRAYF* was produced at the Geffen Playhouse in Los Angeles March 1–April 10 (geffenplayhouse.org/shows/trayf). The synopsis is that Zalmy lives a double life. By day, he drives a Chabad 'Mitzvah Tank' through 1990s New York City, performing good deeds with his best friend, Shmuel. By night, he sneaks out of his orthodox community to rollerskate and listen to rock 'n' roll. But when a curious outsider offers him unfettered access to the secular world, is it worth jeopardizing everything he's ever known? This road-trip bromance is a funny and heartwarming ode to the turbulence of youth, the universal suspicion that we don't quite fit in, and the faith and friends that see us through."

Amparo Garcia writes, "I am now on my fourth tour as a State Department Foreign Service officer at the U.S. Embassy in Phnom Penh. Seven years as a diplomat have gone by fast, a lot faster than my almost three years of service as a Peace Corps volunteer in Senegal and Mali. Let me know if you ever find yourself in SE Asia or have mentees interested in a career in the State Department."

Dr. **Graham Donald** lives in Boise and writes: "I have worked here as a vascular surgeon since 2018. My wife, Lauren, and I welcomed our daughter, Isla, on Halloween 2020."

Phil Sandick GSAS'09 shares, "I got married and had two kids, and we moved to Washington, D.C., a few months ago after living in an RV for about five months. I switched law firms when we got to D.C."

On a sad note, we mourn the passing of **Luis Saucedo** on January 22, 2022. See "Obituaries."

As for me, it was neat to attend pianist Lang Lang's tour in the spring. What a performance!

I sent a Facebook friend request to each of you. If you would accept it, I would really appreciate it. Please reach out if you didn't get a request or would like to reconnect and keep in touch: sallie@salliemathtutor.com or salwa.sallie.touma@gmail.com.

2006

Andrew Stinger
andrew.stinger@gmail.com

Greetings from San Francisco, where my senior rescue mutt, Trousers, and I are sitting down on a misty Saturday to curate the latest updates from the Class of 2006.

I'll be making my first trip to New York City since the onset of the pandemic in a few weeks to film a streaming SoulCycle class for the Cycle for Survival fundraising series with Memorial Sloan Kettering and Equinox, and can't wait to make a quick stop to look up at the 116th Street Gates with the same awe I did when touring campus for the first time nearly 20 years ago.

In the meantime, here's the latest and greatest from our illustrious classmates:

Brian Wagner earned an M.B.A in February from the Indiana University Kelley School of Business. He is leading external and business sector communications at Peraton.

Kathy Gilsinan's first book, *The Helpers: Profiles from the Front Lines of the Pandemic,* was published on March 1.

As Kathy shares: "As the world started to fall apart in 2020, I profiled some extraordinary Americans working at personal risk and at times under impossible conditions to try to help their communities get through. A young nurse in the Bronx; the leader of Moderna's vaccine program; a ventilator manufacturer racing to ramp up production as the nation feared a catastrophic shortage; a middle-aged paramedic who drove an ambulance across the country at the height of New York's first surge to ease the pressure on overwhelmed emergency services and more. These people come from all over the country and all over the socioeconomic spectrum; they all faced down death, fear and the certainty that they couldn't save everyone. But they showed up for others anyway. At a dark time in America, they remind us it's possible to be the light."

If you would like to send in a note, please reach out by email

Just Married!

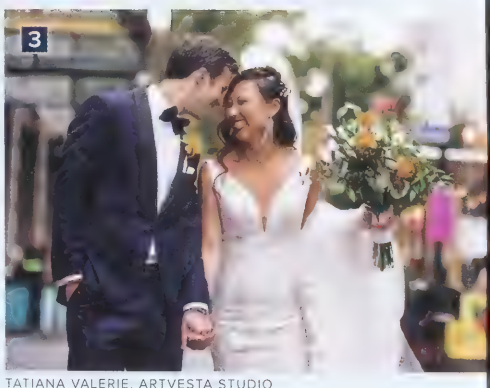
CCT welcomes wedding photos where at least one member of the couple is a College alum. Please submit your high-resolution photo, and caption information, on our photo webform: **college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo**. Congratulations!



RIMA BRINDAMOUR



ALLEN TSAI



TATIANA VALERIE, ARTVESTA STUDIO



KEVIN WHITE



ALEXIS HUNGERFORD



CHLOE KRITHARAS DEVIENNE



FRANK SEGALLA



CASSIE PEECH PHOTOGRAPHY



JAMES MINNS



DAVID LAI



1. Matthew Seife '16 and Brandon Ocheltree were married at the Brooklyn Winery in Williamsburg on December 4. Celebrating were (top row) Emi Lirman '16, Jack Barbaro '16, Jason Kempner '16, Bernardo Hinojosa '14, Danielle Goldman '16 and Christina Kyrillos BC'16; and (bottom row) Maya Anand '17, Seife and Lily Liu-Krason '16.

2. Anthony Maddox '12 married Dmeca Maddox BC'13 (center, front) on October 10. Joining the newlyweds at the Nasher Sculpture Center in Dallas were (left to right) Ashley Lherisson '12, Nzingha Prescod '15, Beverly Leon '14, Loweye Diedro '13, Carl Constant '11, Essane Diedro '13, Joshua Martin '13, Jeremy Mingo '14, Iman Blow '19, Owen Fraser '12, Kalasi Huggins '12, Brittany Huggins SEAS'12, Frank Garcia '14, Ryan Haslett '12, Brandon Cole '11 and James Burrell '13.

3. Will Schildknecht and Sarah Chai Schildknecht '12 were married on October 23 in New York City.

4. Micah Smith '14 and Alexandra Gaspard-Smith '14 were married at Belle Mer, Newport, R.I., on August 1. CC'14 classmates Danielle Benson, Doreen Agboh, Malida Tadesse, Jonathan Hofman, Gaby Dressler and Nicolas Esguerra were in the wedding party.

5. Brianna Diaz-Pacheco (née Alico) '20 and Ruben Diaz-Pacheco '18 were married in Maryland on November 20.

6. Maggie Alden '14 and Alex Bancu '11 were married in Psili Ammos, Serifos Chora, Greece, on October 2.

7. Joining Anna Ginzburg '11 at her August 22 wedding to Andrei Khots, held at Nicotra's Ballroom on Staten Island, were (left to right) Tania Harsono '11, Anna Kurtzberg TC'12, Amanda Bousquin '11, Denise Yu '12, Toni Ma '12, Lisa Vance BC'13 and Susan Phan '12.

8. Natalie Gossett '10 wed Kyle Bogdan in Ormond Beach, Fla., on October 23.

9. Sean Udell '11 (cream jacket) and Jonathan Jenkins were married on December 31 at The Bonnet House in Fort Lauderdale, joined by Ali Krimmer '11 (second from left), Lia Bersin SEAS'11 (to Jenkins's right) and Lauren Pully SEAS'11 (third from right).

10. Kelly O'Reilly '12 and Joseph Chervenak celebrated their August 28 wedding at the Los Altos (Calif.) History Museum with, left to right, Justin Smallwood '16, Farrah Ricketts '14, Erica Weaver Kesler '12, Jeremy Fassler JRN'21, Danica Damplo '12, Alex Klapheke '12, Emma Manson '12 and Sean Spielberg '11.

11. Celebrating the March 11 wedding in Yonkers of Dan Hess '96 to Deena Bahu (center) were, left to right: Uchenna Acholonu '96, Matt Wirz '96, Adam Sinclair SEAS'96, Bich-Nga Nguyen '96, Thomas Humphries '96, Dan Lin '96, Ravi Iyer '96, Arnold Kim '96 and Brendan Killackey '96.

12. Robert Baldwin '15 wed Fabiola Urdaneta '16 on June 12 at The Ocean Reef Club in Key Largo.

13. Deandrea Ellis-Carson '14 and Malcolm Carson '13 were married in Ocho Rios, Jamaica, on December 11.



RICARDO VASQUEZ



TATIANA VILLAMIL

or use the Class Notes webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. *CCT* also welcomes photos that feature at least two CC alumni for Class Notes, or one CC alum — if a member of the couple — for the "Just Married!" section: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo.

2007

David D. Chait
david.donner.chait@gmail.com

Thanks so much to everyone who shared updates. I'm very excited for our 15-year reunion. I looked forward to seeing many of you there.

Becca Hartog shares, "2021 was a big year for our family! I finished pediatric cardiology training in July and moved back to my hometown of St. Louis to take a position at St. Louis Children's Hospital. I will start another (and my last) fellowship in July in adult congenital heart disease. We bought our first house and we love being close to family!"

Allison Désir GSAS'11 writes, "I'm excited to announce that my book, *Running While Black: Finding Freedom in a Sport that Wasn't Built for Us*, is now available for pre-order; it launches on October 18!"

Riddhi Sohan Dasgupta delivered a formal address in March on national security and international trade to the Congress of the Republic of Guatemala. He was a guest of the president of Guatemala, who hosted a dinner in the National Palace to mark this visit. The Indian ambassador hosted a dinner in his residence, also honoring this visit. Sohan had delivered a formal address before the Hungarian Parliament last year. He served as the deputy general counsel of the Department of Homeland Security.

Kasia Nikhamina and her husband, Ilya, run Redbeard Bikes, a bike fit studio and shop in DUMBO, Brooklyn. She says, "The business is now in its 10th year — no small feat for brick-and-mortar retail in NYC!" Kasia is writing her first book, and adds, "While you wait for it, subscribe to my TinyLetter, *Extraordinary Time,* at kasianikhamina.com."

Eric Bondarsky shares, "I recently invited Daniel Reidler SEAS'12 to join the world's largest and oldest active book club and he accepted!"

If you would like to share your updates, please reach out to me by email or use the Class Notes webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. *CCT* also welcomes photos that feature at least two CC alumni for Class Notes, or one CC alum — if a member of the couple — for the "Just Married!" section: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo.

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2008

Bradley Blackburn
blb2104@columbia.edu

Hello, CC'08! Very glad to sign on as our new class correspondent. It was great to hear from many of you, and I look forward to sharing your news in issues to come.

Rob Wu writes with exciting news about becoming a dad: "My wife, Min-Joh, and I welcomed our first child, Allah June Wu, into the world on February 25. She is a sassy little lady who is very curious about the world around her. We are thrilled to have her in our lives and excited for her to meet all of our Columbia friends!"

Peter Law and Heather Rabkin welcomed their baby boy, Noah Antranig Law, in August 2021. Peter says Noah enjoys rolling over, getting up on all fours and putting anything he can get his hands on into his mouth. His parents could not be happier or more proud.

Rachel Cooper Schilowitz found time to share an update, even with a newborn. Rachel and her husband, Daniel, welcomed Max Morris Schilowitz on March 9.

Carmen Jo "CJ" Rejda-Ponce writes with professional news. She has been promoted to partner at the Texas firm Germer. She is excited to embark on this new chapter and to continue offering excellent service to her clients in the field of employment litigation and civil rights defense.

Christine Han is now a senior trial attorney at the U.S. Department of Labor, Office of the Solicitor, in Washington, D.C.

Mike Lock writes from Brooklyn about a fun new passion. In addition to his day job working for a hedge fund, Mike has decided to make a foray into writing and illustrating children's books! He is self-publishing his first book, *Thirsty for Juice!,* about a boy who has to learn to like fruits and vegetables. He and his friend John Atlas '09, SEAS'09 came up with the idea after trying (and failing) to get John's niece and nephews to eat their veggies. Mike's book will be available this fall at Community Bookstore in Park Slope. He says he's already planning his next book, about a little boy who refuses to cut his hair.

And finally, an update from your correspondent:

Bradley Blackburn and **Gilma Avalos** married in 2017 with many of our fellow Lions traveling to Texas for the celebration. Gilma and I returned to New York City in late 2019 after several years in Miami and Dallas/Fort Worth. We both continue the journalism careers we launched on campus at CTV. Gilma anchors and reports for WNBC and I am a correspondent with CBS News. We welcomed our first child in March 2020. Our daughter, Birdie Alondra Blackburn, is now a busy toddler who fills every day with new joys!

Hope everyone has a wonderful summer, and please be in touch with your life updates and Morningside memories!

2009

Shira Burton
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Quite a few of you emailed with updates this time around. It's so nice to hear from everyone. Since my last dispatch from Minneapolis, I've been busy at work. I've had four felony jury trials, including two wins — a success rate I'm happy with, all things considered! I encourage you to reach out even if you don't have any big news to share. I guarantee people would love to hear what you're up to.

Munif Hussain writes: "I started working at a sports medicine practice in the city with Summit Health, a partner of CityMD Urgent Care, where I was previously. I am starting a new journey, chiming in to spread the word. I am taking care of exercise-induced injuries and practice non-operative orthopedics: bit.ly/38obREV and bit.ly/3vfYnDd.

Amanda Karl recently joined the partnership at Gibbs Law Group, where she has represented employees, consumers, sexual assault survivors and voters in complex litigation for more than five years. She lives and works in Oakland, Calif., with her husband, Mike McBrearty SEAS'04, and their son.

Ron Mazor LAW'13 and his wife, Jessica (Penn '09), serendipitously moved to South Florida in December 2019 after five years of living in Jersey City. They welcomed daughter Eliza in January.

Giuseppe "Joey" Castellano took a gap year that turned into four years. He applied to graduate school in 2013, entering the University of Texas at Austin as a doctoral student in classical archaeology in 2014. He earned a master's in 2016 and a Ph.D. in 2019 with the dissertation *A Dialogue in Metal: Silver, Bronze, and Cross-Cultural Currencies in Italy and Sicily*, under the supervision of Professor Adam Rabinowitz, which explores the indigenous Italic contribution to the monetization of Italy and Sicily during the period of Greek colonization (c. 8th–3rd centuries BC). Joey was a postdoctoral fellow at UT-Austin 2019–21, when he released an ancient currency conversion website, trapezites.com, funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Engaged Scholar Initiative. He has a particular interest in cultural contact in the ancient world and to work at the conjunction of qualitative and quantitative analysis.

Joey is currently a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Toronto, where he is working with Professor Seth Bernard on a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council-funded project, "An Eco-

nomic History of the Roman Conquest of Italy, 500–200 BC." He also teaches a course on the indigenous Italic influence on the development of urbanism in ancient Italy. He has published both popular and academic articles in publications such as the American Numismatic Society's *ANS* magazine, the *American Journal of Numismatics*, the *Swedish Numismatic Journal* and the *Archaeological Monographs of the British School at Rome*. His latest publication, from the American Journal of Numismatics (2021), is "XRF [X-Ray Fluorescence] Analysis of the Volterra Hoard and a Sample of the Earliest Etruscan Coinage."

Joey says he was lucky enough to marry the woman of his dreams, Chantel Lynae, in 2015, and in October 2021 they welcomed Margot Vesta Castellano into the world.

Ashleigh Aviles was scheduled to earn a doctorate in human development and family sciences from The University of Texas at Austin this spring. She says she is thrilled to be returning to New York this summer as a postdoctoral research associate in Dr. Pamela Morris's lab at NYU.

On January 12, **Michael Emerson** and Adina Bitton BC'08 welcomed son Nadav Aharon Bitton Emerson. His sisters, Maayan, Lital and Keren, have been wonderful and are enthusiastically integrating him into the family. Also, this summer, the family will move out of Jerusalem to the nearby suburb of Tzur Hadassah.

Stephanie Chou has continued working on various music projects in NYC. Her song cycle *Comfort Girl*, which premiered in 2019, is in development for a chamber opera in partnership with The American Opera Project through a grant from the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature. The piece explores the lives of Chinese "comfort women," who were abducted into sexual slavery by the Japanese army during WWII and is a tribute to these young women's courage and spirit. The libretto will be written by Susan Kander, and the jazz-opera is expected to premiere in 2025. Stay tuned for the album version of the song cycle, coming out later this year: stephaniechoumusic.com.

John Klopfer checks in: "I'm in Hong Kong teaching at The University of Hong Kong, and would love to hear from classmates living here or in the region. Can't travel now, but it's starting to look like that might change. Interesting times."

In August, **Annie Ma-Weaver** and **Jacob Ma-Weaver** GSAS'09 welcomed their second child, Irving Weipeng Ma-Weaver, who is named after his great-grandfathers.

Anastasia Hinojosa married Andrew Harold Thomas on February 22 in a civil ceremony conducted by Hon. Thelma Rodriguez in Corpus Christi, Texas. Anastasia is an accountant at a children's hospital, and Andrew is a data analyst at a community healthcare center. No honeymoon as of yet, but they look forward to traveling!

After two years' postponement due to the pandemic, **Jenny Lam** was able to have the in-person iteration of *SLAYSIAN,* the acclaimed art exhibition she curated featuring and celebrating Chicago and the Midwest's Asian-American artists. Photos of the show — as well as the original online version, press coverage and more — are at artistsonthelam.com. As for her own artwork this past year, Jenny was interviewed by PetaPixel and Fstoppers in feature articles about her photography, all shot on her iPhone 5s; she was interviewed as the featured artist in the literary magazine *Lover's Eye Press*; and she was interviewed live on WGN Morning News and WBEZ. Jenny was also the subject of a feature article in the *Chicago Reader* about *Dreams of a City*, the long-running, city-wide interactive public art project she began while at Columbia, where she gradually pieced together a map of Manhattan from people's hopes and dreams. This labor of love can be viewed on Instagram at @dreamsofacity. Also, a coyote came to her door.

Send me your updates via email or use the Class Notes webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. If you'd like to share photos, please submit them directly to *CCT* using the Class Notes photo webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo.

Nicole Ellis '10 joined PBS NewsHour *as a broadcast correspondent, as well as the first lead digital anchor for a nightly news show.*

2010

Billy Organek
william.a.organek@gmail.com

Hi Class of 2010! I'm excited to share some updates from classmates:

Nishant Batsha GSAS'17's debut novel, *Mother Ocean Father Nation,* was published on June 7. The novel is set between California and a fictional South Pacific island nation and, as Nishant says, "has been described as 'a moving saga' by Amitav Ghosh."

Nicole Ellis JRN'16 shared that she joined *PBS NewsHour* as a broadcast correspondent, as well as the first lead digital anchor for a nightly news show. Her first book, *We Go High,* also was to be published on June 7. She characterizes the book as "a self-help-by-proxy book that chronicles how 30 women of color navigate life's peaks and valleys, providing helpful tools and tactics for overcoming the many challenges women face in their quest for respect, equality, visibility and greatness."

Congratulations to Nishant and Nicole (and any other authors in the Class of 2010)!

Please continue to share any updates (personal or professional, big or small) with the class.

2011

Nuriel Moghavem and Sean Udell
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sean.udell@gmail.com

Hey 2011! Sean and I continue to be well, and Sean in particular has some great updates and a busy start to 2022! He wed Jonathan Jenkins at the historic Bonnet House in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., on New Year's Eve. Among those in attendance were **Ali Krimmer**, **Shiri Melumad**, **Felix Vo**, **Lia Bersin SEAS'11**, **Chris Elizondo SEAS'11** and **Lauren Pully SEAS'11.** (See "Just Married!") In March, Sean was appointed chief resident of Penn Psychiatry for the 2022–23 academic year!

We hope he spends less time getting sucked into Excel oblivion organizing resident schedules and spends more time doing what he loves: peer mentorship and teaching.

On October 6, **Zila Acosta-Grimes** and **Brian Grimes** welcomed Tomas Bradley Grimes, who is named after Brian's grandfather (the late Thomas Bradley) and Zila's father (Rolando Tomas Acosta '79, LAW'82). Tomas joins brother Brian Grimes III (3).

Tanisha Dee Daniel is graduating from Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School in New Jersey this year, and matched into ob/gyn residency! She is excited for the next phase of this journey, and we're just as excited for her!

After working for the ol' alma mater for the last 10 years, **Maggie Johnson** packed up her life into 20 boxes and moved back to her home state of California, where she took a job managing a team of fundraisers at UC Berkeley for the Cal Athletics department. But don't worry, it will always be "Go, Lions!" from her.

Nuriel and Sean wish Maggie the best, and note that if you'd like to donate to Cal in order to have your child admitted there, please email support@fbi.gov.

Meredith Lester and her husband, Kevin Lester '12, are excited to announce they are opening a Crumbl Cookies franchise in Old Town Chicago, at 1435 North Wells St. The store was to open in April. Their twins, Tank and Thorn, are particularly thrilled about the grand opening!

Nicola Rose is a film director and producer and recently completed her first feature film, the comedy *Goodbye, Petrushka,* which deals with a young American woman's coming-of-age misadventures in Paris. The film is set to have its world premiere in Los Angeles this summer.

More premieres! **Olivia Shih** recently launched her first fine jewelry collection online: oliviashih.com/liquid-gold-fine-collection. The jewelry was created in Olivia's home studio during the first year of the pandemic. Too depressed and

anxious to cook full meals, Olivia tells us that she ate simple things. A hard-boiled egg. A potato. A bowl of soup. This collection is an ode to the soft, round forms that gave her comfort. She hopes that her jewelry will bring comfort to others, too.

As a soft, round form himself, Nuriel is a big fan already.

Amy Huang is finishing her dermatology residency at SUNY Downstate in her hometown of Brooklyn. She hiked the biggest trails in 15 U.S. National Parks last year, was planning to hike 18 miles of Grand Canyon's South Rim in March, was planning to hike all of Iceland in May and was planning to trek all 73 miles of Hadrian's Wall solo in August. Once done, she will put on her big-girl pants for her first real job out of residency at a private practice in North Bergen, N.J. (farewell, NYC!).

Lastly, **Anna Ginzburg Khots** married Andrei Khots in New York in August. Andrei proposed in March 2020, just a few days before New York went into the lockdown. The couple waited until spring 2021 and planned their wedding in four months! They got married on August 22, 2021, the same date that Hurricane Henri paid a visit to New York. They say that if it rains on your wedding day, then that will bring good luck, and if a hurricane appears, then the couple will be truly lucky! Fortunately for them, the hurricane changed paths in the morning and did not prevent them from celebrating their special day with family and friends, including many Columbia alums. (See "Just Married!")

They plan to remain in New York for the foreseeable future. Anna is an innovator within portfolio construction at Bank of America, while Andrei leads the Agile transformation for a technology division within Wells Fargo.



Catching up over dinner on March 21 at The Britely in Los Angeles were (left to right) Sonya Li '16, Morgan Hewett '15 and Lily Liu-Krason '16.



SOPHIA HOROWITZ

Lily Liu-Krason '16 (left) and Daniela Lapidous '16 met up at a mutual friend's wedding at Terranea Resorts, Rancho Palos Verdes, Calif., on March 17.

2012

Sarah Chai Schildknecht
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Hi everyone. By the time this issue publishes, our 10-year reunion will have occurred. Hoping many of us were able to use the opportunity to reconnect, and looking forward to hearing updates/seeing photos for the next Class Notes. (Please send photos that feature two or more CC alumni to *CCT* directly: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo.)

In the meantime, many exciting updates:

Brian Barwick and his wife, Meaghan, welcomed their first child, daughter Harper, in January. She's looking forward to meeting all her dad's friends from college as soon as she can make it out East!

Sarah Engle and William Ballenthin '10 welcomed their first child, Adeline Burton Ballenthin, into the world on February 7. All are doing well, and her parents are excited for this new adventure!

Alissa Rae Funderburk writes: "Since my move from New York City to Jackson, Miss., I have spent nearly three years as the Andrew W. Mellon-funded Oral Historian for the Margaret Walker Center at Jackson State University. I've also since been elected to Council Member of the Oral History Association and started a network for Black oral historians that meets monthly and provides space for memory workers of the African diaspora to discuss current events, new projects and other topics related to the field."

Sarah Ngu sent an update from New Haven: "I'm back in school, starting a master's at Yale Divinity to study missionary interactions with indigenous religious leaders in Southeast Asia, with a focus on gender and sexuality. School's easier when you're not 21!"

Chuck Roberts began a job as an associate in the Government Regulation Practice of Jones Day.

CCT gave a shoutout to **Emily Tamkin** in its March 7 online "Alumni in the News" section, highlighting her guest essay in *The New York Times* on February 27, "How the American Right Learned to Stop Worrying and Love Russia."

When we asked whether Class Notes could share the piece, Emily wrote, "I'm touched that *CCT* is reading my writing (and if any current students are reading this: Consider signing up for *Spectator*). And at the risk of being overly self-promotional, my second book, *Bad Jews: A History of American Jewish Politics and Identities*, will be out this fall."

Hope to hear from others soon, and sending all best in the meantime.

2013

Tala Akhavan
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We heard from three classmates this time.

Arielle Kogut recently joined the venture capital industry as a partner at Tribe Capital, where she is focused on fundraising and deal sourcing. She moved to Florida last year and splits her time between New York and Miami.

Juan Estrada shares, "I founded a company based out of the United States and Colombia that offers digital services to global companies with the goal of bringing more tech job opportunities to the Latin American region. We recently celebrated our first year in business."

Yanyi writes, "My second collection of poetry, *Dream of the Divided Field*, was released on March 1."

These classmates used the Class Notes webform — and you can too! Please go to college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note (or you can email me). And you can go to college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo to submit a Class Notes or "Just Married!" photo right to *CCT*. Please share your news and updates!

2014

Rebecca Fattell
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Deandrea Ellis-Carson and Malcolm Carson '13 were married on December 11 in Ocho Rios, Jamaica. The two met at Emory School of Medicine. Present at the wedding

were **Elizabeth Shay, Alexandra Ellenthal** (née Castillejos), **Starlyte Harris, Roshawn Johnson** and Aron Taamrat SEAS'15. Deandrea is a pediatrician and Malcolm is in residency studying physical medicine and rehabilitation. (See "Just Married!" for a photo.)

Bo Muzikowski married Ashley Edwards on New Year's Eve. They met through mutual friends and live in Chicago, where they both grew up and which they have continued to greatly enjoy during their first few months of marriage. They work in finance in Chicago, and Bo coaches high school track and kids' baseball on the side.

As always please feel free to reach out to me with your news! Send me an email or use the Class Notes webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. *CCT* also welcomes photos that feature at least two CC alumni for Class Notes, or one CC alum — if a member of the couple — for the "Just Married!" section: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo.

2015

Kareem Carryl
kareem.carryl@columbia.edu

Hello Class of 2015! Hope you're finding the time to take advantage of the good weather over the next few months! Here are some updates:

Andrew Demas '15 leads IBM's telecommunications customer transformation consulting organization; he is the youngest partner in IBM's history.

Lillian Chen has a new role with *The New York Times*'s audience team as international deputy. She will lead the team's international audience strategy work.

Andrew Demas was promoted to partner at IBM and now leads its telecommunications customer transformation consulting organization. He is the youngest partner in the company's history.

As always, classmates want to hear from you! Please be sure to submit updates by emailing me or by using the Class Notes webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. If you'd like to share photos, please submit them directly to *CCT* using the Class Notes photo webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo.

2016

Lily Liu-Krason
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Hey 2016! I hope 2022 has been treating you well. It was a fun start for me, filled with a lot of CC'16 reunions in Los Angeles with **Jason Kempner, Peter Bailinson, Keanu Ross-Cabrera, Ankeet Bail, Samantha Duncan** and Christina Kyrillos BC'16. I also saw Morgan Hewett '15 and **Sonya Li** (see the nearby photo)! If you're ever in Los Angeles, feel free to reach out to them or let me know, as I'm in Los Angeles often for work.

Speaking of reunions and letting me know, I am writing this ahead of Columbia Reunion 2022 but this is published afterward, so if you have photos from reunion that feature two or more CC alumni, please send them *CCT* using the photo webform: columbia.college.edu/cct_submit_class_note_photo. And as always, if you have updates or want to nominate someone to write one please send those my way.

I recently saw **Daniela Lapidous** in Palos Verdes (see the nearby photo!) and got this update: "Hi Class of 2016! Hope you are all safe and well. It was a joy this year to see Columbia take a major step toward full divestment from fossil fuels, in response to ongoing student pressure since 2012, including by Barnard Columbia Divest for Climate Justice at the time I was on campus. Also on the climate front, for the last year I have been the deputy field director at the Green New Deal Network and supporting the fight for the passage of strong policies for climate, jobs and justice on the federal, state and local level. I recently moved to Flatbush, so say hi if you are in South Brooklyn!"

Another update I managed to score from an in-person inquiry comes from **Samantha Duncan:** "Hey everyone! I moved to Los Angeles last year and have been working in the film industry, primarily in the art department. I recently wrapped a gig as the set decorator on an indie feature and started a role at Eyeline Studios, a virtual production company that was acquired by Netflix last year. It's been fun to learn the ins and outs of volumetric capture, motion capture and LED stages at Eyeline!"

Matthew Seife writes: "Brandon Ocheltree (Tulane Business '17) and I were married on December 4 at the Brooklyn Winery in New York. It was so great to have all our friends and family together to celebrate after long pandemic separations, including several Columbia and Barnard alumni. See a photo in 'Just Married!'"

2017

Carl Yin
carl.yin@columbia.edu

Bianca Guerrero recently joined the New York City's Comptroller's Office as director of organizing. Her team, which focuses on workers' rights, housing, education, public safety and environmental justice, will leverage the comptroller's tools to support progressive legislative and budget campaigns by community organizations and local legislators. Bianca says she has expanded her hobbies beyond photography to include sewing (namely quilting) and bird watching.

Elle Wisnicki has launched a career coaching startup, Pivotal, while obtaining an M.B.A. at the UC Berkeley Haas School of Business. Pivotal is a mock interview marketplace where professionals and students can practice with someone in the industry, function or educational field they are interested in. Pivotal focuses on when someone is nervous about an interview, especially one that has a technical component, like a product or consulting case. It serves product management, consulting, finance, people operations, health, media, data science, design and more. It also offers résumé and essay review, and networking.

Elle says she created this startup with her passion for product design and worker wellness. She is excited for you to check it out and share with friends, family and colleagues: pivotalprep.me.

As always, it's great to hear from you all. Please feel free to send a Class Note at any time either through email or the Class Notes webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. You can also submit photos here: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo (photos must have at least two CC alumni, or one CC alum if getting married).

2018

Alexander Birkel
and Maleeha Chida
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Julia Zeh and **Briley Lewis** finally got to see each other in person again while Julia was on her way to Hawaii for field work for her Ph.D. thesis (see the nearby photo!). Briley also took the next step in her Ph.D. program last fall, and can finally call herself a Ph.D. candidate. She's been doing a lot of freelance science writing lately, too, and recently published an article in *Scientific American.* She was also recently a finalist in UCLA's Grad Slam competition, where she gave a



BRILEY LEWIS '18

Julia Zeh '18 (left) and Briley Lewis '18 recently spent time together in California.

three-minute TED-style talk on her thesis work.

Five friends — Bruce Gao '17, **Yhan Colon Iban, Rachel Jimenez,** Hannah Friedman '19 and Raphael Lee '20 — who all live in the city, have designated "Friends Fridays" to catch up weekly.

Will Essilfie visited Mexico City in December with **Josh Burton** and their friends. During the trip, they toured Teotihuacán (see the nearby photo) and explored the city's phenomenal culinary world. They highly recommended it!

Jesse Thorson is co-publishing a book with Jeffrey Sachs, coming out in August, on ethics and sustainable development! Jesse is the special project coordinator at the Center for Sustainable Development at Columbia University's Earth Institute.

Submit updates to Class Notes by emailing either of us or by using the Class Notes webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. If you'd like to share photos, please submit them directly to *CCT* using the Class Notes photo webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo.



Josh Burton '18 (far left), Will Essilfie '18 (far right) and three friends enjoyed time in Mexico City in December.

2019

Tj Aspen Givens and Emily Gruber
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Friends of the Class of 2019, we enjoyed reviewing your submissions. We cannot wait to learn more about all you are doing during your time as alumni Lions, from weddings to grad school to accolades to big moves across the pond. Feel free to contact us at any time; we really appreciate staying connected to the Columbia community, and we hope you do, too. As summer comes to be, we are full of optimism as the seasons so beautifully change!

Sarah Fornshell GSAS'20 is at The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law and will spend this summer as a 1L Summer Associate at Squire Patton Boggs.

Salvatore Volpe GSAS'21 earned an M.A. in biomedical informatics GSAS and co-authored a chapter in an upcoming textbook, "Health Informatics: Multidisciplinary Approaches for Current and Future Professionals." He's pursuing an M.D. at SUNY Downstate (see a photo above!). Outside of academia, he premiered an original show, *Staten Island! The Musical,* for more than 500 attendees last July and released an original album on all streaming platforms, *In My Life,* featuring Steve Ali '18, MoniQue Rangell-Onwuegbuzia '22, **Edwine Coulanges, Fabiola Plaza, Phoenix Collins, Natachi Mez** and **Shanga Goman Labossiere** SOA'21 (linktr.ee/laseplov).

In summer 2021, **Emily Utset** was admitted to the Global Field Program at Miami University. As part of her first Earth Expeditions course, Emily traveled to Baja, Mexico, and studied desert and marine landscapes through ecological and social field methods.



MARIO A. GARCIA JR. '21

Salvatore G. Volpe '19 celebrated with his parents, Rachel Volpe and Dr. Salvatore Volpe '82, at his SUNY Downstate College of Medicine Annual White Coat Ceremony on September 17.

2020

Stephen Cone and Kyra Ann Dawkins
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Brianna Diaz-Pacheco (née Alico) and Ruben Diaz-Pacheco '18 celebrated their wedding in November 2021, surrounded by friends and family. See "Just Married!" for a photo.

Christian Gonzalez is completing a Ph.D. in political theory at Georgetown.

Zeina Laban feels that the past two years just flew by and is happy to see everyone thriving.

Robert Willard is leading the World Aral Region Charity on an engineering education project in western Uzbekistan alongside **Nathan Santos** and **Paola Ripoll.** They say they are passionate about connecting the youth of Central Asia with their ecological heritage through theater, art and dance.

Thank you to all who submitted notes, and we look forward to hearing from more of you soon enough (especially with stories from the CC'20/CC'21 Class Day!).

Please send your notes to us by email, or submit them through the Class Notes webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. If you'd like to share photos, please submit them directly to *CCT* using the Class Notes photo webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo.

2021

Mario A. Garcia Jr.
mag2329@columbia.edu

Hey Class of 2021! I hope the first half of the year treated you well! If you were able to make it to reunion in June and catch up with old friends and make new ones, I'd love to hear about it! Send any updates to be written up for our next issue.

Leopold Aschenbrenner recently helped launch the FTX Foundation's Future Fund, a philanthropic fund that plans to distribute $100 million–$1 billion this year to ambitious projects to improve the long-run future of humanity. He, along with his three co-founders, launched this project to support many areas of interest, notably, artificial intelligence, economic growth, effective altruism and more, he says.

Michael Van Duinen has been attending the University of Chicago as a chemistry Ph.D. student. He's begun work in the Sibener Labs and intends to study Helium atom scattering off of Niobium surfaces with superconductive properties well-suited for radio frequency cavities in beam accelerators.

obituaries

1943

Frank Herman, research physicist, Menlo Park, Calif., on August 11, 2021. Born in NYC, Herman showed an early aptitude for mechanics, math and science that would shape his professional career. He graduated from Bronx Science and served in the Navy, entering the College with the Class of 1943, before earning a B.S. in 1945 in engineering and an M.S. in electrical engineering in 1949 from Columbia Engineering and a Ph.D. in physics in 1953 from GSAS. Herman was a research engineer at RCA Laboratories in New Jersey before moving to California in 1962 to work for Lockheed. He joined IBM as a research physicist in San Jose in 1969 and worked there until his 1993 retirement. Herman's work in physics included two patents, more than 120 contributions to scientific publications and more than 250 lectures at conferences throughout the United States, Europe, Brazil, Mexico and Japan. He loved travel, movies, opera and scientific reading. Herman is survived by his of wife of 68 years, Sondra BC'53; daughters, Laura, Valerie and Suki; and six grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to Second Harvest of Silicon Valley (shfb.org).

Albert A. Sharke, engineer, Arden, N.C., on July 16, 2021. Born and raised in NYC, Sharke was the first in his family to attend college. After graduation, he served as an officer in the 457th Squadron, 506th Fighter Group, U.S. Army Air Corps, on Iwo Jima during WWII, and then earned a B.S. from Columbia Engineering in mining, metallurgy and mineral engineering in 1947. Sharke worked briefly at Air Reduction Laboratories but spent the bulk of his career in chemical and refinery operations at Standard Oil of New Jersey. After raising a family in Watchung, N.J., he retired to Hendersonville, N.C., and, more recently, Arden. Sharke enjoyed opera and classical music; loved to travel, sail, play bridge and cook outside; was an avid hiker, swimmer and dancer (ballroom, square and round); and was a devout member of Trinity Presbyterian Church in Hendersonville. He is survived by his wife, Margaret; daughter, Janet; and son, Paul. Memorial contributions may be made to Trinity Presbyterian Church (trinitypresnc.org).

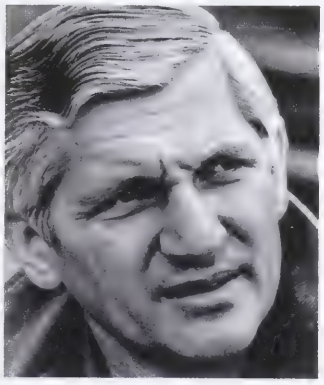
FEATURED OBITUARIES

Read about the lives of Dr. Jeremiah Stamler '40; Jason L. Epstein '49, GSAS'50; Gerald Sherwin '55; Franklin A. Thomas '56, LAW'63; and Bernard W. Nussbaum '58 at **college.columbia.edu/cct.**

1946

James A. Manning, pediatric cardiologist, Rochester, N.Y., on July 5, 2021. Born in Calcutta, India, Manning spent his early years there and in Guangzhou, China, where his father was a banker, before moving to the United States, where he grew up in Watertown and Amityville, N.Y. He graduated from P&S in 1948 and was part of the Navy's WWII-era V-12 training program, leaving the Navy as a lieutenant. Manning founded the pediatric cardiology department at the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Strong Memorial Hospital in 1955 and was a pioneer in the field, having trained under its founder, Dr. Helen Taussig, at Johns Hopkins. He remained at Rochester and Strong until he retired in 2005; the children's cardiology service at Strong bears his name. Manning also conducted monthly heart clinics for children in Watertown, Cooperstown and elsewhere across Upstate New York for 30 years. Manning is survived by his wife of 74 years, Dr. Mary-Parke Edwards Manning PS'48; daughter, Elizabeth Stevens (Bill); sons, Deane (Michelle), Thomas '76, BUS'82 (Randi) and Foster (Leslie); eight grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Bernard Sunshine, businessman, New York City, on January 2, 2022. Sunshine grew up in the East New York section of Brooklyn and earned a master's in history from GSAS in 1947. He worked in the textiles business, manufacturing and importing textiles for home furnishings. Sunshine said that attending Columbia changed his life, and he paid it forward by being one of the College's most dedicated alumni for more than 50 years. He was president of the Columbia College Alumni Association 1974–76, a member of the University Senate 1994–99 and president of the Columbia University Alumni Federation 1999–2001. In 1971, Sunshine was awarded the Columbia University Alumni Federation Medal. He sat on the boards of the Harlem School of the Arts

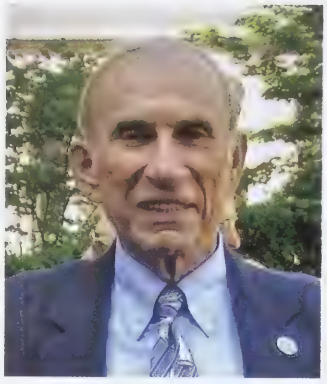


Bernard Sunshine '46

and of SCAN-Harbor, two organizations dedicated to helping youth in underserved NYC neighborhoods. Sunshine is survived by his wife of 70 years, Marjorie LS'69; sons, Harry TC'83 (Susan Schwimmer) and Andrew '79, GSAS'91 (Mara Heiman SW'85); daughters, Rachel and Louise; five grandchildren (including Jacob '14); and one great-grandchild.

1948

Michael J. Etra, businessman, Jupiter, Fla., on March 21, 2022. Etra was a varsity swimmer and a member of the water polo team that went undefeated for two years. His time at Columbia was interrupted by two years of service in the Navy during WWII. Etra worked at Star Corrugated Box Co. for 38 years and then at Unicorr; he was a well-known figure in the industry.



Michael J. Etra '48

He was a guitar player, opera lover, sailor, oenophile and philanthropist. He is survived by his wife of 72 years, Julie; son, Barry '73, BUS'75 (Janice Wolf); daughters, Susan Yoeli (Michael), Anne and Elizabeth Jick (Dan); eight grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

Thomas H. Weyr, writer, Bronxville, N.Y., on March 11, 2022. Born on September 9, 1927, in Vienna, Austria, Weyr and his mother fled to England following the annexation of Austria by the Nazis in 1938. Three years later, his family moved to the United States to escape the German Blitz of London, settling in Philadelphia. A journalist and author who earned a Ph.D. from the University of Vienna, Weyr contributed to many news outlets including ABC, *Newsweek,* United Press International, the Research Institute of America and DMNews. He also published several books, including *Reaching for Paradise: The Playboy Vision of America,* a



Thomas H. Weyr '48

detailed history of Hugh Hefner's Playboy empire, and *The Setting of the Pearl: Vienna Under Hitler,* a history of Vienna 1938–2005. He also translated many books into English from French and German and ghost-wrote others, including *Answer to History,* Mohammad Reza Pahlavi's autobiography, and former CIA director William Casey's book, *The Secret War Against Hitler.* Weyr is survived by his daughters, Teddie, Garret, Sascha and Tara Nicole; stepson, John; stepdaughters, Allison and Frances; and six grandchildren.

1949

Frank T. Thomas, ophthalmologist, Madison, Conn., on October 5, 2021. Born on December 29, 1924, in Southbridge, Mass., Thomas enlisted in the Navy after graduation from high school and served as a medic from December 1942 to February 1946. He graduated from P&S in 1953 and practiced ophthalmology in Bronxville, N.Y., for 30 years, founding the Bronxville Eye Associates. An avid golfer and tennis player, Thomas and his wife, Maureen, were members of Bonnie Briar Country Club and the Bronxville Field Club. After retirement, they moved to Madison, where they were members of the Madison and Clinton Country Clubs and Old Saybrook Racquet Club. Thomas was predeceased by his wife and is survived by his daughters, Laura, and Kathy Uhrlass (Raymond); son, Steven (Arleen); and five grandchildren.

1950

Noel R.D. Corngold, physics professor, Pasadena, Calif., on January 23, 2022. Born in Brooklyn, Corngold was bedridden for a year prior to college with rheumatic fever and used that sabbatical to study physics, calculus and chess. He was on the staff of *Spectator,* where he wrote an often reprinted, affectionately satirical article, "A Guide to Female Companionship." After graduating magna cum laude, he attended Harvard, where his research was supervised by Nobel Laureate Norman Ramsey, and completed a Ph.D. at Brookhaven National Laboratory, where he was an associate physicist for 12 years. In 1966, Corngold joined the faculty at Caltech, where he conducted extensive research in reactor theory and the features of pure electron plasmas while teaching students and lecturing worldwide. He was elected to the American Nuclear Society in 1966 and honored by the society's Reactor Physics Division for his "physical insight into neutronic problems." He was presented the society's Wigner Reactor Physics Award in 2002 and its A.H. Compton Award in Education in 2006. Corngold is survived by his wife, son, daughter and brother.

F. Brian Quinlan, banker, Garden City, N.Y., on January 1, 2021. A graduate of Forest Hills H.S., Quinlan was a member of Beta Theta Pi and served three years in the Navy. He had a long career in banking, including at JPMorgan Chase and Bank of Ireland. Quinlan is survived by his wife, Ann Leonard; sons, Paul (Gail) and Bruce (Karen); daughters, Diane and Pamela (Stephen); nine grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

1951

Stanley L. Beck, translator, Brussels, on March 13, 2022. Beck graduated from Baltimore City College prep school in 1946 and started college at Franklin & Marshall before transferring to Columbia, where he earned both a B.A. and a J.D., from the Law School, in 1951. He spent a summer at the Yale Institute of Far Eastern Languages learning Chinese, an experience that sparked a lifelong love of languages; he went on to master French, Italian and German, plus some Russian, Romanian and a half-dozen others. Beck spent 11 years with the Navy, mostly as a judge advocate general, before serving for several decades as a translator for NATO and the Defense Department. Beck was predeceased by his wife, Hedy. He is survived by his son, Tony (Tanya); daughter, Marissa; two grandsons; and a sister, Sylvia Beck Piven.

Richard J. Howard, poet, translator and educator, New York City, on March 31, 2022. A Pulitzer Prize-winning poet, Howard was Professor Emeritus of Professional Practice of Writing and Special Lecturer in Writing in the Faculty of the Arts. He translated more than 100 volumes, introducing modern French fiction to the American public. His Pulitzer was awarded in 1970 for *Untitled Subjects,* which presented 15 dramatic monologues by Victorians and Edwardians. Howard was awarded the PEN Translation Prize in 1976 for his translation of E.M. Cioran's *A Short History of Decay,* and the National Book Award in 1984 for his translation of Baudelaire's *Les Fleurs du Mal.* Through the years, more awards and honors were heaped on him, including the American Book Award, the Harriet Monroe Memorial Prize, the PEN Translation Medal, the Levinson Prize and the Ordre National du Mérite from the government of France. He was the poet laureate of New York State 1993–95, and at various times the poetry editor of *The Paris Review* and *Western Humanities Review.* After teaching English at the University of Houston for 10 years, he became a professor of writing at Columbia in 1997. He is survived by his partner, David Alexander.

Kenneth L. Schick, physics professor, Saratoga Springs, N.Y., on September 16, 2021. Born on February 20, 1930, in Brooklyn, Schick was a graduate of Stuyvesant H.S. and earned a Ph.D. in physics from Rutgers before serving in the Army during the Korean War. During his 43-year tenure as professor of physics at Union College, he was a Bailey Chair, physics department chair and member of the Board of Trustees. A staunch believer in academic excellence, Schick recruited outstanding professors including the author of the inaugural work on the Big Bang theory and the inventor of artificial diamonds. In addition to his work at Union, he was a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Leiden in the Netherlands, a visiting professor at The Weizmann Institute of Science in Israel and sat on many Middle States Accreditation Committees. In retirement, Schick was active on the boards of the Saratoga Independent School and the Legal Equality Advocacy Firm; founded the Saratoga chapter of the Torch Club; and continued to review physics textbooks for Knopf Doubleday Publishing. Schick was predeceased by his daughter Ruth, and is survived by his wife of 64 years, Elaine; brother, Frank; daughter Karen Bellhouse (Thomas); son, Louis (Bridgit Burke); and six grandchildren and grandchildren-in-law.

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1952

Trowbridge H. Ford, political science professor, New Haven, Conn., on July 26, 2021. Born in El Paso on November 9, 1929, Ford spent his childhood moving from one Army base to another before attending Phillips Exeter Academy. A direct descendant of William Harris, president of Columbia College 1811–29, he served in the Army Counter Intelligence Corps in Paris 1952–55. After time spent as a reporter and sports editor of the *Raleigh (N.C.) Times,* Ford earned a doctorate in public law and government from GSAS in 1967. He taught at



Trowbridge H. Ford '52

Columbia, Maine and Heidelberg (Ohio) before becoming a professor of political science at Holy Cross 1967–86, teaching courses on U.K. and Irish politics and Soviet foreign policy. Prompted by questions surrounding the Vietnam War and the Warren Report on the Kennedy assassination, he became an outspoken debunker of official accounts of assassinations, wars and foreign affairs. On his retirement from teaching, Ford was sports editor of the *Ridgefield (Conn.) Press,* editor of *Eye Spy* magazine and a contributor to the Veterans Today

website. After living in Portugal and Sweden, he returned to New Haven in 2012. Ford was divorced from his wife, Isabel Clahr, BC'58, who predeceased him. He is survived by his brother, John; and 10 nieces and nephews. Memorial contributions may be made to Oxfam America (oxfamamerica.org).

Neil J. Henry, sales executive, Mendham, N.J., on August 5, 2021. Born on May 7, 1929, and raised in Worcester, Mass., Henry enlisted in the Army following graduation and served in Korea. He had a long career as a sales executive in the plastics industry, selling injection molding machines. Ultimately, he had his own distributorship and sales organization, responsible for sales on the East Coast. Active in his community, Henry served on the town Recreation Committee, was president of the School Board and was a founding member of the local youth athletics group. He is survived by his wife of 67 years, Marcia; seven sons and their wives; 15 grandchildren; and five great grandchildren.

Nicholas W. Wedge, copywriter, Ossining, N.Y., on December 1, 2021. Born in New York City on May 31, 1930, Wedge graduated from Bronx Science. He was a copywriter in advertising's "Mad Men" era, and created memorable campaigns for *The New York Times*, the *Financial Times* and others. In a six-decade career at BBDO in New York and London, D'Arcy McManus, Geer DuBois, Royd's Advertising Group in London, and his own agency, Janic Productions, Wedge created print, radio and television ads for airlines, beverage makers, cars, computers, corporate clients, financial institutions, publishers and myriad consumer goods and services. His work for the *Times* included an iconic collaboration with artist Tomi Ungerer, in which his slogan, "An adult finds out in *The New York Times*," was paired with several startling Ungerer images. In one, a hand reaches out to pull off a clown's green mask, only to reveal a green-faced man behind it. In another, a man pries the red-white-and-blue top hat off Uncle Sam's head to peer inside his skull. Other slogans in the series included "You can tell the adults by the paper they read" and "If you're not behind *The Times*, you're behind the times." Wedge is survived by his wife of 69 years, Janet; son, Will; daughters, Cathy and Liz; three granddaughters; and a great-grandson.

1953

Allan E. Jackman, physician, Mill Valley, Calif., on October 20, 2021. Born on October 31, 1932, in Brooklyn, Jackman graduated from Erasmus Hall H.S. and was 16 when he entered the College, where he was sports editor of *Spectator* and director of the Student Elections Commission. He graduated from P&S in 1957, interned at Mount Sinai Hospital and joined the Air Force Medical Corps, serving as a captain and chief of staff of the American Hospital in Ankara, Turkey. Jackman did his residency at UCSF before going into medical practice in San Francisco, where he became interested in arthritis. He was an attending physician at UCSF's Medical and Arthritis Clinics for 40 years, and was an associate clinical professor of medicine. Jackman was president of the Northern California Rheumatism Association and was on the San Francisco Medical Society's Malpractice Advisory Committee. Nicknamed "Dr. Ajax," he retired in 2003. Jackman was predeceased by his wife, Vivian Straus, in 1997; he is survived by his sons, Owen and Russell; two grandchildren; Evelyn Topper, his partner and companion since 1999; and his adopted family, Vanessa Topper, François Gounard and Mikayla Gounard. His brother, Jay M. Jackman '60, died three months after he did (see entry in this issue). Memorial contributions may be made to the P&S Class of 1957 Scholarship Fund.

Richard A. Lempert, attorney, Dallas, on January 12, 2022. Born in Brooklyn on May 15, 1932, Lempert graduated from the Law School in 1955 and served in the Coast Guard, including a posting in Sitka, Alaska (1955–58). His legal career began in New York City, in admiralty practice, and arced through aviation, international, corporate and commercial litigation, oil and gas, banking, law firm management and arbitration. Lempert was an attorney, assistant general counsel, senior VP international and general counsel of American Airlines (1963–89), moving with his family from Douglaston, N.Y., to Dallas in 1979 when American relocated its headquarters. Retiring from American in 1989, he worked for Johnson & Gibbs (1989–91) and became a principal/managing director and one of the five founders of McKool Smith in 1991. He retired in 2006 and then was an arbitrator with the American Arbitration Association. Lempert is survived by his wife of 66 years, Mary Lou BC'54, TC'55, whom he met at WKCR; son, Peter (Donna); daughter, Jeanne; and three grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to The Lake George Association, 239 State Route 9, PO Box 408, Lake George, NY 12845.

Kenneth N. Skoug Jr., foreign service officer, Harleysville, Pa., on December 5, 2021. Born in Fargo, N.D., Skoug earned a master's and a Ph.D. from The George Washington University and also attended the Georgetown Institute of Language and Linguistics (1955–56) and The National War College (1973–74). After serving in the Army, Skoug began a Foreign Service career (1957–90) that included assignments in Germany, Mexico, Czechoslovakia, the Soviet Union and Venezuela (twice) as well as four tours in the Department of State in Washington, D.C. Highlights included serving in Czechoslovakia during the Soviet invasion, traveling the world as a Foreign Service inspector, working as an economic-commercial counselor at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, negotiating with Fidel Castro for the release of political prisoners while office director of Cuban affairs, establishing personal relations between Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez and President George H.W. Bush and serving as deputy chief of mission in Caracas. He authored two books, *The United States and Cuba Under Reagan and Shultz, A Foreign Service Officer Reports* and *Czechoslovakia's Lost Fight for Freedom, 1967–69, An American Embassy Perspective.* Skoug was predeceased by his wife, Martha; and is survived by his children, Reed (Michael) and Kenneth (Becky); and five grandchildren.

OTHER DEATHS REPORTED

Columbia College Today also has learned of the following death(s). Complete obituaries will be published in an upcoming issue, pending receipt of information.

1948 **Daniel N. Hoffman,** retired attorney, San Jose, Calif., on January 15, 2022.

1949 **George W. Intemann,** automotive executive, La Quinta, Calif., on January 17, 2022.

1952 **Richard C. Wald,** journalist and professor, Larchmont, N.Y., on May 13, 2022.

1953 **Joseph E. Velasco,** physician, Miami Beach, on February 20, 2019.

1975 **Edward T. Shaskin,** bank examiner, Paramus, N.J., on March 25, 2022.

1992 **Dara E. Goldman,** professor, Urbana, Ill., on May 13, 2022.

1954

Albert J. Thompson, dentist, Riverdale, N.Y., on October 6, 2021. A lifelong New Yorker, Thompson was senior class president at George Washington H.S. and won three NYC titles in track and field. At Columbia, he set a school record in the shot put and won titles in the 35-lb. weight throw and the shot put at the 1953 indoor and outdoor Heptagonal Championships. While serving as a lieutenant in the U.S. Naval Reserves, Thompson won the shot put in the 1955 Millrose Games and qualified for the 1956 U.S. Olympic Trials. He was a proud member of the New York Pioneer

Club, the nation's first integrated track club. After graduation from the Dental School in 1960, Thompson went into private practice in midtown, where he served a diverse community for nearly 60 years. An active member of the Dental School community, he was an assistant clinical professor, president of the alumni association and a member of the admissions and minority affairs committees. In 1988 Thompson was honored with a Columbia University Alumni Medal and in 2010 was inducted into the Columbia University Athletics Hall of Fame. Thompson was predeceased by his first wife, Marion, and is survived by his wife of more than 40 years, Angela; children, Leslie, Paul and Seif; sister, Dolores; and four grandchildren.

1955

Theodore Ditchek, physician, Phoenix, on August 26, 2021. Born on September 6, 1934, Ditchek earned an M.D. at SUNY Downstate College of Medicine. After completing his internship and residency at Michigan, he moved to Arizona and cared for the people of the Navajo and Hopi Nations. He was known for his acumen in spotting complex and hard-to-diagnose cases of tuberculosis and cocci. Ditchek became the medical director for radiology at Good Samaritan Medical Center in Phoenix, now known as Banner University Medical Center, where he worked for nearly 30 years before opening the Laura Dryer Breast Center. Ditchek was predeceased by his first wife, Ester; and sister, Elaine Finestone. He is survived by his second wife, Tina; daughters, Stacie Nardizzi (John), Elyce Goldberg (Bruce), Dimitra Steeley (Mark) and Tiffany Hilstrom (Mike); eight grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

William H. Epstein, patent attorney, New York City and Sag Harbor, N.Y., on November 13, 2021. Born in Sheepshead Bay, Brooklyn, Epstein graduated from James Madison H.S. and majored in history. He earned a B.S. in chemical engineering from Columbia Engineering in 1956 and a J.D. from The George Washington University Law School. Epstein had a long and distinguished career as a patent attorney, working for more than 35 years at Hoffmann-La Roche. He later joined Gibbons P.C. in its intellectual property group, and retired at 80. Epstein had a lifelong love of classical music; his father, Morris, liked to mention that his son spent his bar mitzvah money on opera tickets to the old Met. Epstein also enjoyed traveling, eating fine food and spending time with family and friends in Sag Harbor. A dedicated alumnus, Epstein often quoted from CC and Lit Hum texts, served on Reunion Committees and regularly attended Homecoming and Class of '55 events. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Elaine; son, Eric '83 (Michele BC'85, JRN'92); daughter, Ellen (Ray); and three granddaughters. Memorial contributions may be made to the Ponheary Ly Foundation (theplf.org).

Daren A. Rathkopf, attorney, Cold Spring Harbor, N.Y., on January 11, 2022. A 1958 graduate of the Law School, Rathkopf practiced until three weeks before his death, most recently as a partner at Chase, Rathkopf & Chase in Glen Cove, N.Y. He was the co-author of a major land-use treatise, *Rathkopf's The Law of Zoning and Planning.* His father, Arden H. Rathkopf CC 1926, also graduated from the Law School, in 1928. Rathkopf is survived by his wife of 59 years, Mira; daughters, Ann Rathkopf (Giona Maiarelli) and Erika Saffran (Michael); and four grandchildren.

Herbert S. Rubinowitz, neurologist, Phoenix, on August 22, 2021. Born on March 1, 1935, to parents who emigrated from Poland and Russia during WWII, Rubinowitz grew up in Washington Heights, N.Y., and graduated at 15 as valedictorian and class president at George Washington H.S. After earning an M.D. from NYU, he completed an internship in internal medicine at Beth Israel Medical Center and a residency in neurology at Mount Sinai Hospital. Rubinowitz was a captain and a medic in the Air Force; he was honorably discharged in 1972. In addition to his NYC private practice in neurology, Rubinowitz was on staff at Mount Sinai, Beth Israel and NYU. He instilled his work ethic and the importance of education in his children, all seven of whom graduated from college and five of whom attended graduate school. Rubinowitz is survived by his wife of 54 years, Arlene; daughters Ami Israel (Gary), Susi Sur (Scott), Emili Gross (Stewart), Wendi Rubinowitz (Nicki) and Randi Stensberg; 12 grandchildren; and sister, Sonie Spector. He was predeceased by a daughter, Jodi Peikes (Ronald), and son, David (Stacey). Memorial contributions may be made to Kivel Campus of Care in Phoenix (kivelcare.org) or to the Alzheimer's Association (act.alz.org/donate).

Robert J. Thonus, civil engineer, Murrieta, Calif., on September 18, 2021. Born on December 7, 1933, in Haledon, N.J., Thonus earned a B.S. in civil engineering from Columbia Engineering in 1956 and an M.B.A. from the University of Houston in 1980. He worked for Esso Research & Engineering for 30 years, focusing on the engineering, procurement and construction management of large capital investment petrochemical projects domestically and overseas. He left what is now ExxonMobil in 1991 and was a consultant for several years before moving from Baton Rouge to Southern California, first to San Diego and then to Murrieta. A licensed pilot, Thonus and his wife, Angeline, traveled extensively following his retirement, including taking many cruises and motorcycle trips in the United Kingdom, New Zealand and Spain. He was a longtime president/secretary of the ExxonMobil Retiree Club of the San Diego Area. In addition to his wife, Thonus is survived by his sons, Tim and Ted; daughters, Terese, Jean and Nancy; seven grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

1956

Frederick C. Baldwin, photographer, Houston, on December 15, 2021. Born on January 25, 1929, in Lausanne, Switzerland, Baldwin was the son of a career foreign service officer who died while serving as consul general in Havana. Baldwin attended several boarding schools and spent one year at the University of Virginia before dropping out and working at an ice factory owned by his mother's family. A talented photographer, he carried a camera while serving as a Marine rifleman during in the Korean War, was presented two Purple Hearts and met David Douglas Duncan of *Life* magazine, who influenced Baldwin in his career



Frederick C. Baldwin '56

path. Calling his camera "a passport to the world," Baldwin documented wildlife, the civil rights movement and American poverty, and helped promote fellow photographers from Latin America, Africa and Asia. Much of his work was done in partnership with Wendy Watriss, whom he met in 1970 and who became his collaborator and second wife. Together they co-founded FotoFest in Houston, which held its first biennial exhibition in 1986 and was one of the few festivals that featured the work of photographers from Latin America, Africa and Asia. Baldwin's first marriage, to Monica Lagerstedt in 1961, ended in divorce after eight years. In addition to Watriss, he is survived by his sons, Frederick and Charles; and one granddaughter.

Stanley A. Kling, micropaleontologist, Encinitas, Calif., on September 4, 2021. Kling studied geology and paleontology, earning a master's from GSAS in 1959. He earned a Ph.D. at Scripps Institution of Oceanography (SIO) and joined the Deep Sea Drilling Project, serving aboard the scientific research ship *Glomar Challenger.* Kling completed post-graduate studies in Tubingen, Germany, and then relocated to Tulsa, where he worked for the Cities Service oil company. In 1974, he secured research grants at SIO and

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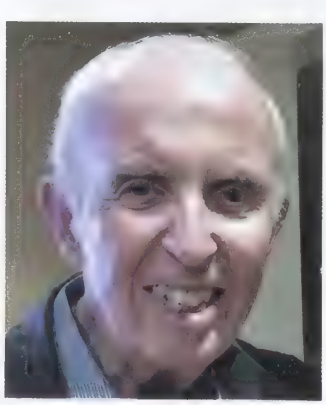
returned to California, where he worked for Biostratigraphics in San Diego before co-founding MicroPaleo Consultants. Kling's primary research interest was in the systematics, biogeography and biostratigraphy of radiolarians, and his microscope photography of radiolarians, foraminiferans and diatoms were well published. He was a lifelong jazz enthusiast,



Stanley A. Kling '56

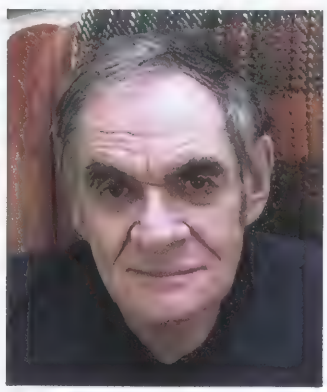
playing trombone and tuba in various Dixieland and traditional jazz bands. Kling was predeceased by his wife, Britta Schuelke, in 2011; he is survived by his sons, Neal, Hannes (Carol Hofmockel) and Wendell (Allison Wiese); and four grandchildren.

Elias Schwartz, pediatric hematologist, Philadelphia, on July 17, 2021. Schwartz grew up in Brooklyn, graduated from Erasmus Hall H.S. and earned an M.D. from P&S in 1960. He interned at Montefiore Hospital in the Bronx and completed a pediatric residency at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children in Philadelphia. Schwartz served in the Air Force 1963–65 at Offutt AFB in Omaha, caring for children of military personnel, and then completed an internship in hematology at Boston Children's Hospital. Schwartz joined Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) and the University of Pennsylvania Medical School as chief of the Division of Hematology and a professor of pediatrics in 1972 and set the division on a lasting course of integrating patient care and research. He became the chair of the Department of Pediatrics in 1990, was CHOP's physician-in-chief 1991–97 and was a professor of pediatrics and a pediatric hematologist at Thomas Jefferson University's duPont Hospital for Children in Wilmington, Del., 1997–2000. He published more than 150 research papers and was editor of the 1980 textbook *Hemoglobinopathies in Children.* Schwartz is survived by his wife of 61 years, Esta; sons, Samuel and Robert; and six grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to CHOP (chop.edu).



Elias Schwartz '56

Jerome Schwartz, French professor and artist, Philadelphia, on January 10, 2022. Born on February 10, 1935,



Jerome Schwartz '56

in Queens, Schwartz earned an M.A. in 1960 and a Ph.D. in 1965, both from GSAS, and a Fulbright Travel Grant to teach "American" English at the Lycée Henri IV in Paris. He joined the faculty of the University of Pittsburgh in 1965, received tenure in 1968, became a full professor in 1989 and was named Professor Emeritus in 1997, specializing in 16th-century French language and literature. Schwartz was an accomplished pianist and organist as well as a serious artist, and upon retirement he resettled in Philadelphia and embarked on a second career as an oil painter. He painted for 10 years, joined several galleries, exhibited, won prizes and had a solo show at Twenty-Two Gallery. Schwartz is survived by his wife of 62 years, Sandra BC'55; and daughters, Lena Bennet and Monika. Donations may be made to the Louis August Jonas Foundation (lajf.org), Plastic Club (plasticclub.org) or Curtis Institute of Music (curtis.edu).

1957

Alan M. Frommer, businessman, Wellesley, Mass., on May 15, 2021. Frommer, who grew up in Laurelton, Queens, and graduated from Far Rockaway H.S., rowed lightweight crew along with his twin brother, Paul '57, and earned a B.S. in industrial engineering from Columbia Engineering in 1958 and an M.B.A. from Rutgers. He also was a graduate of the Ritz-Escoffier École de Gastronomie Française (1996), loved French food and wine and worked in Paris for three years. Frommer worked in corporate finance for many years until he built his own business, Art Supplies Wholesale, on the North Shore of Boston. He was president of the Columbia University Alumni Association of New England for many years and was honored with a Columbia Alumni Medal in 1986. Frommer was predeceased by his brother Herbert '54, DM'57. In addition to his twin brother, Paul '57 (Liz), he is survived by his wife of 61 years, Judy (née Goldman); daughter, Michèle '86; son, Benjamin '91 (Martina); three grandchildren; and sister-in-law, Ellie. Memorial contributions may be made to the Core Curriculum (college.givenow.columbia.edu).

Richard Kleefield, orthodontist, Norwalk, Conn., on March 13, 2022. After serving as an officer in the Navy, Kleefield graduated from the Dental School in 1968 before co-founding his own orthodontic practice. He was passionate about flying and Lions football. He is survived by his wife, Mickey; son, James; daughter, Janie; brother, Jonathan '66; and five grandchildren.

1958

Howard J. Orlin, accountant, New York City, on October 18, 2021. Orlin graduated from the Business School in 1959 and was an accountant with expertise in international tax law. He fought the effects of multiple sclerosis for 40 years, and thanks to Anita BC'61, his wife and caregiver, lived a meaningful and productive life even when confined to a wheelchair. Orlin was a respected international tax partner at Deloitte Touche and a mentor to those entering the field. He was a proud member of the Columbia community, always with a smile on his face at reunions. In addition to his wife, he is survived by his son, Jonathan '85 (Mary); daughters, Elizabeth (John Ifcher) and Janet; and two grandchildren.

1959

Eric G. Jakobsson, science professor, Urbana, Ill., on October 28, 2021. Jakobsson earned a B.S. in chemical engineering from Columbia Engineering in 1960 and a Ph.D. from Dartmouth. In 1971, he began a 50-year association with the University of Illinois, where he was a professor of biochemistry, molecular and integrative physiology, biophysics and computational biology, bioengineering and neuroscience. He continued to work through the spring 2021 semester, when he taught a remote course on the history of the universe to honors students. His primary area of research was studying microscopic nerve cells, especially those that are fundamental to understanding how the nervous system and brain work. Late in his career Jakobsson shifted his research to lithium, about which he wrote several papers. He was elected as an alderman in 2009, a year before he was appointed to the Urbana City Council; later he was elected to Ward 2 and served until he resigned in June 2020 to devote more time to teaching. He was also a representative to the Public Arts and Culture Commission, the Urbana Free Library board and the Traffic Commission. Jakobsson was predeceased by a son, Garret, in 2013, and is survived by his wife, Naomi; sons Eric Jr. and Jonathan; and daughters, Beverly, Brenda, Linda, Sarah and Susan.

Robert E. Selz, prosthodontist, Asheville, N.C., on October 28, 2021.

Born on August 28, 1937, in New York City, Selz was in the Army during the Vietnam War before beginning a 50-year career as a board-certified prosthodontist. He had an appetite for adventure, loved fast cars and traveled extensively. He is survived by his wife, Judith; son, Steven; daughter, Karen; and three grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Association (act.alz.org/donate), Compassion & Choices (compassionsandchoices.org) or Care Partners Hospice of Asheville (missionhealth.org).

Myles N. Weintraub, attorney, Toledo, Ohio, on February 20, 2022. Born on March 23, 1938, Weintraub grew up in the Crown Heights section of Brooklyn with his twin brother, Jerry, and their sister, Annette, near their parents' corner grocery store, and graduated from Erasmus Hall H.S. After earning a J.D. from NYU Law in 1963, he worked mostly in private practice on Long Island. Following his legal career, Weintraub joined his brother in Berkeley, Calif., where he worked as a handyman, which he was passionate about. He moved to Toledo in 2021 to live near his children. Weintraub is survived by his sons, Mike (Melanie Coulter) and Patrick (Katherine); daughter, Stacy Brown (Kevin); twin brother, Jerry; sister, Annette Blaugrund (Stanley); and two grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to the Diabetes Foundation (diabetesfoundationinc.org).

1960

Laurence M. Chelmow, engineer, Canton, Mass., on September 29, 2021. Chelmow earned a B.S. in industrial engineering/operations research from Columbia Engineering in 1961. He was a principal engineer for Polaroid, working on its new products. Upon retirement, Chelmow channeled his love of horology into an antique clock restoration business. He sat on the boards of the Willard House & Clock Museum and the Bristol Art Museum and was a member of the American Watch and Clockmakers Institute. He also sat on Canton's Finance and Capital Outlay and Planning Committees and was a Cub Master of Pack 77. Chelmow is survived by his wife of 60 years, Betty; sons, David and Ted; daughter, Susan Nourse; and six grandchildren.

Jay M. Jackman, psychiatrist, Stanford, Calif., on January 17, 2022. Born in Brooklyn on June 4, 1939, Jackman graduated from Erasmus Hall H.S. and earned an M.D. from Harvard in 1964. He completed a psychiatric residency at Stanford in 1969 and worked in San Francisco in community mental health and alcohol and drug abuse treatment. In 1975, Jackman moved to Honolulu, where he was in private practice for 15 years. He moved to Palo Alto in 1990 and was an expert psychiatric witness in about 400 murder cases, including 25 habeas appeals cases in state courts and in Federal District Courts. Jackman was an elected trustee of the Foothill DeAnza Community College District 1993–98 and earned a J.D. from Hastings Law School in San Francisco in 1999. He married Judith Maisels in 1963; they were divorced in 1985. Jackman was predeceased by his brother, Dr. Allan E. Jackman '53 (see entry in this issue); and is survived by his second wife, Myra Strober, whom he married in 1990; five children and stepchildren; and six grandchildren.

Anton I. Klotz, Dobbs Ferry, N.Y., on March 4, 2020. Klotz, who earned a master's from Wisconsin, was devoted to his family and friends and loved books, films, music and a lively debate. He was predeceased by his first wife, Rose Mosen, in 1968; second wife, Annette Sydney, in 1999; and brother, Peter. He is survived by his sons, Bruce (Jodi Levine) and Adam '89; daughters, Donna Cohen (Claude Armstrong) and Barbara Silverstone (Stanley); brother, Gerald (Joan); sister-in-law Elaine Geracht (Maurice); and nine grandchildren.

1961

Samuel Strober, professor of immunology and rheumatology, Portola Valley, Calif., on February 11, 2022. Born in Brooklyn, Strober graduated from Harvard Medical School magna cum laude in 1966. After an internship at Massachusetts General Hospital, he was a research associate at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Md., for three years. Strober started his residency at Stanford in 1970, joined the medical school's faculty as an instructor in immunology in 1971 and was promoted to professor in 1982. He was a Howard Hughes Medical Institute investigator 1976–81 and led the division of immunology and rheumatology 1978–97. Strober's 40-year career was committed to eliminating the need for immunosuppressive drugs in patients with organ transplants. Strober published 400 scientific papers and book chapters and was an associate editor of several journals. He co-founded two companies, Dendreon and Medeor Therapeutics; was board chairman at the La Jolla Institute for Immunology 2005–10; president of the Clinical Immunology Society in 1996; and a member of half-dozen other professional associations. In addition to his brother, Ross, Strober is survived by his sons, Jason, Will and Jesse; daughter, Liz; and four grandchildren.

1962

Charles F. "Sandy" Darlington III, attorney, South Casco, Maine, on October 12, 2021. Darlington served in the Army in Germany before attending the College. After earning a J.D. from Brooklyn Law in 1965, he practiced law in both New York and Maine. Darlington was a dedicated member of St. James the Less Episcopal Church in Scarsdale, N.Y., for more than 55 years, where he sang in the choir and served as senior warden. A talented musician, he also sang in The New Choral Society for more than 25 years. Darlington is survived by his wife, Janet; sons, Mark '83, SEAS'84 and Matthew; daughters, Caroline and Elizabeth; their spouses; and 10 grandchildren.



Charles F. "Sandy" Darlington III '62

1963

Richard J. Wells, attorney and paramedic, Yorktown Heights, N.Y., on December 22, 2021. A longtime resident of Chappaqua and Brant Lake, N.Y., Wells served in the second class of the Peace Corps and was sent to Columbé, Ecuador, a remote mountain village with no running water or electricity, to help build a school. Wells's interest in helping others extended to his years at Harvard Law School, where he volunteered with Legal Aid prior to graduation in 1968. He practiced law in NYC, but his political interests led him to join the successful campaign of Harrison Jay Goldin for NYC comptroller. Wells was Goldin's lead executive advisor throughout the 1970s. He later studied at Harvard Public Health and had a second career as an EMT and paramedic. Wells is survived by his wife, Janet; son, Ben (Marcia); daughter, Laura; two grandchildren; and sisters, Katherine Wells and Elizabeth Elkin (Allen).

1964

Lawrence H. "Larry" Davis, philosophy professor, Cleveland, on February 10, 2021. Davis, who studied at the Jewish Theological Seminary, earned a Ph.D. from Michigan, where he completed his dissertation, *The Concepts of Action and Agency.* He was a professor in the Department of Philosophy at the University of Missouri, St. Louis for more than 30 years and the author of *Theory of*



Lawrence H. "Larry" Davis '64

Action (1979). While his later years were difficult due to a neurological condition similar to Parkinson's, Davis continued to enjoy intellectual pursuits such as the study of Judaic subjects with friends. He is survived by his wife, Sonya "Sunny"; daughters, Rena Landes, Miriam Berger and Sarah Rudolph; 12 grandchildren; and sister, Rhea Cabin.

1965

David K. Berke, cardiologist, Castro Valley, Calif., on December 27, 2021. Berke graduated in 1969 from P&S, where he was a member of Alpha Omega Alpha. Following residencies at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/ Columbia University Irving Medical Center and UC San Francisco and a cardiology fellowship at Stanford University Medical Center, Berke opened his private practice in Fremont,



David K. Berke '65

Calif., in 1974 and developed the cardiac program (catheterization lab, cardiac rehab and heart surgery) at Washington Hospital. He completed his medical career in Castro Valley. Berke loved patient care and felt it was a privilege to go to work every day. His business card quoted Hippocrates: "Cure sometimes, treat often, comfort always." He hiked all seven continents and was passionate about tennis. Berke is survived by his wife, Terry Liebowitz; former wife, Iris Berke; daughters, Elizabeth Vickery '94 (Jason) and Anne; and two granddaughters.

David M. Sarlin, photographer, Saugerties, N.Y., on November 3, 2021. Sarlin, who was a regular attendee at NYC-area class luncheons, was known for capturing spontaneous and incongruous images. He studied at the International Center of Photography and exhibited his work at the Woodstock Artists Association and Museum, the New School and other venues. His work is in several private collections.

1966

Michael H. Friedman, professor, Winston-Salem, N.C., on May 27, 2021. Friedman earned an M.A. in 1968 and a Ph.D. in 1977, in English literature, both from GSAS, where he met his wife, Mary (née Lusky) GSAS'77, who earned a doctorate. His book, *The Making of a Tory Humanist: William Wordsworth and the Idea of Community,* was published in 1979.

Richard G. Gallin, editor, New York City, on May 26, 2021. Gallin earned a master's in 1967 and a Ph.D. in history in 1979, both from GSAS. An editor and publisher, he loved reading, painting, being outdoors, history, film, music and clouds, and most of all spending time with his family. He is by survived by his wife and the love of his life for 55 years, Nancy GSAS'67; sons, Josh (Nara) and Will (Pam); daughters, Lisa (Tim), Becky (Kurt), Susie (Dave), Annie (David), Maggie SW'11 (Kevin) and Cathy (Iván); and 16 grandchildren.

David S. Weissbrodt, human rights law professor, Minneapolis, on November 11, 2021. Born in Washington, D.C., Weissbrodt attended the London School of Economics before earning a J.D. from UC Berkeley. In 1975 he joined the Minnesota Law School faculty, where he became a highly regarded and widely published scholar of international human rights law who was extraordinarily active in promoting human rights worldwide. He established the Human Rights Center in 1988 and began the Minnesota Human Rights Library online to make human rights documents easily available. In 2005, he was appointed a Regents Professor, the university's highest honor awarded to a faculty member, and he retired in 2018 as Regents Professor Emeritus. He was active in helping the Law School establish the Weissbrodt Human Rights Fund to support the continuing work of the Human Rights Center. He served as a member of the United Nations Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights 1996–2003 and was a leader with several other influential NGOs, including The Advocates for Human Rights, Amnesty International and Center for Victims of Torture. Weissbrodt is survived by his wife, Mary Patricia Schaffer; son, James; daughter, Bronwen Davenport (Robert), sister, Amy Monahan (Gregory); and three grandchildren.

1967

Mark W. Steinhoff, history professor, Lynchburg, Va., on September 19, 2021. Born on August 20, 1945, in Brooklyn, Steinhoff majored in history and earned an M.A. at Johns Hopkins and a Ph.D. at NYU, and served in the Army during the Vietnam War. He joined the history faculty at Liberty Baptist College, where students praised the way he



Mark W. Steinhoff '67

made history come alive, often by teaching dressed as St. Benedict, Confucius or Machiavelli. He was the faculty advisor to Liberty's chapter of Phi Alpha Theta for more than 20 years. Following retirement, Steinhoff remained a committed scholar, working on a memoir and seeking out and supporting students who were pursuing the study of history by encouraging them "not to neglect the gift that is within you."

1969

David G. Powell, thoroughbred horse breeder/trainer and journalist, Le Martinville, Lessard-et-le-Chêne, France, on January 16, 2022. Powell left Columbia before graduation to pursue his love of thoroughbred horses, and in the 1970s settled in

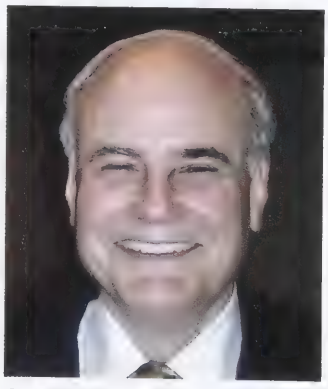


David G. Powell '69

his stepfather's native France. After working at Le Haras National du Pin, France's oldest national stud, he remained in Normandy, working for thoroughbred owners while building up his own stud, Le Lieu des Champs, which he operated with his wife, Elizabeth. Powell specialized in steeplechase jumpers and had a keen eye for selecting horses for clients or to train on his own. He displayed his knowledge of thoroughbreds in a parallel career as an international racing journalist. In addition to his wife, he is survived by his sons, Richard, Leonard and Freddy; and stepson, Arnaud Delacour.

1970

Carl W. Chorba, automobile executive, North Venice, Fla., on August 27, 2021. Born in Pittsburgh, Chorba majored in history with a minor in English, was a member of Phi Gamma Delta and earned varsity letters in football and lightweight crew.



Carl W. Chorba '70

He also played for the Columbia College Rugby Club and Old Boys Rugby into his 70s. Chorba held a variety of executive positions in the

automotive industry, first with Ford Heavy Truck Operations and later with Vision Corp., throughout North America and globally. He retired to Florida, where he was active in Republican Party politics and his local Columbia Alumni Club, and was elected one of five supervisors of the Venetian Community Development District. Chorba and his wife of 48 years, Carole, were active supporters of the Special Olympics for more than 20 years. In addition to his wife, Chorba is survived by his brother, Thomas '66; sons, Matthew and Carl Thomas; daughter, Amanda; and two grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to Special Olympics Florida (give.specialolympicsflorida.org/donate).

1972

Mariano J. Rey Jr., cardiologist, Martha's Vineyard, Mass., on February 19, 2022. Born on the eve of the Cuban Revolution on July 22, 1949, in Havana, Rey came to New York at 12 and lived with an uncle and aunt. Despite arriving knowing little English, he became valedictorian at Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary and excelled academically at the College, where he led the Community Service Council and worked with local residents on tenant and squatter rights protests. Rey pursued cardiology at New York Medicine, which would become his professional home. He was director of the Bellevue Adult Cardiology Clinic for Working Men and Women and founded the Non-Invasive Cardiology Center at Bellevue Hospital, the Cardiopulmonary Rehabilitation Center at the NYU Rusk Institute and the Center for the Study of Asian American Health. Rey was appointed associate dean for student affairs (dean of medical students) in 2000, a position he held for seven years. He was a member of the Columbia College Alumni Association Board of Directors 2000–02. Rey is survived by his wife, Mona; son, Michael (Brielle); daughters, Kathleen Caridad (Rob) and Christine; brother, Rob (Jane); and five grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to the Martha's Vineyard Island Housing Trust (ihtmv.org) or Martha's Vineyard Community Services (mvcommunity services.org).

1974

Daniel L. Dolgin, attorney, investor and nonprofit leader, New York, on February 28, 2022. A philosophy major, Dolgin graduated from the Law School in 1977 and served on the Columbia College Alumni Association Board of Directors 1988–94. He was a member of the Board of Directors and the Investment Committee of Wind River Trust and was chairman of its Audit Committee. Since leaving the full-time practice of law in 1989, he invested in and advised businesses engaged in logistics, decision support and optimization (primarily for the trucking industry), commercial printing services, radio broadcasting, web-based distribution of industrial chemicals and real estate. Before leaving law practice to pursue investment opportunities, Dolgin was co-founder of Towne, Dolgin, Sawyier & Horton, a commercial law firm, and was a capital partner and head of the New York office of McDermott, Will & Emery. He was co-founder of the national nonprofit PowerMyLearning (formerly Computers for Youth), which began using home computers in the 1990s to facilitate children's learning. Dolgin had a summer home on Moose Pond in Bridgton, Maine, and was always concerned for the health of that region's lakes. He is survived by his wife, Loraine Gardner; sons, Benjamin and Samuel; and their wives and children. Memorial contributions may be made to Lakes Environmental Association (mainlakes.org).

Brian R. Phillips, attorney, Bangkok, on September 13, 2021. Phillips grew up in Seattle, where he graduated from Lakeside School. He served in the Peace Corps in Tunis, where he taught English before graduating from the University of Washington Law School, where he did research that identified constitutional issues of a proposed measure that sought to stop a Seattle school desegregation plan. The U.S. Supreme Court agreed with his findings and ruled the measure unconstitutional in 1982. Phillips had a diverse law practice, mostly criminal cases in Snohomish County, and in 1989 he argued a case before the U.S. Supreme Court. His interest in justice and in seeing more of the world led him to Belgrade to reform and strengthen the Yugoslav justice system on behalf of an NGO associated with the American Bar Association. After several visits to Thailand, Phillips purchased a condo on the banks of the Chao Phraya River and began teaching law at Bangkok University. He enjoyed acting with expat groups and had a role in a commercial for Dos Equis beer and a brief part in the movie *The Hangover Part II*. Phillips learned Thai and married Khun Siripan, who survives him.

Raymond C. Reed, attorney, Los Angeles, on February 15, 2022. A graduate of Technical H.S. in Omaha, Reed earned a J.D. from Whittier Law School in 1983 and an M.B.A. from UCLA in 1985. He is survived by his mother, Mildred; brothers, William and Deforest (Linda); and sisters, Marlene Chisolm, Ella Reed Clark, Sharon Reed, Donna Reed and Pamela Reed-Jackson.

1975

Edward C. Dolan, attorney, Darnestown, Md., on January 12, 2022. Born in New York City on September 25, 1953, Dolan graduated from Chaminade H.S. and then Georgetown Law, in 1978. He spent the majority of his professional career at Hogan Lovells (formerly Hogan & Hartson), advocating for clients in bankruptcy and restructuring matters; he retired as a partner in 2019. Dolan had a fascination with aviation and was a licensed private pilot who loved to share his passion for airplanes with his grandchildren. Dolan and his wife of 41 years, Margaret "Pat" Vaughan, were faithful parishioners of St. Jane deChantal Church in Bethesda, and later Our Lady of the Visitation Parish in Darnestown. In addition to his wife, Dolan is survived by his son, William (Stephanie); daughter, Caroline Buddensick (Thomas); and five grandchildren.

Gary L. Greenwell, environmentalist, Moscow, Idaho, on February 25, 2022. A member of Sigma Nu, Greenwell earned master's degrees from Idaho and Washington State. A true environmentalist who believed that everyone should take care of and enjoy the outdoors, he held many jobs but was passionate about working on projects that supported sustainable land management and sustainable forestry. Greenwell spent his younger years hitchhiking across the United States and, later, taking his family to national and state parks. He is survived by his wife of 48 years, Nancy Hale; children, Damien (Lidija) and Danie; brother, Greg; and one grandchild.

Randolph C. Nichols, admissions officer, Baltimore, on May 4, 2021. The salutatorian of his class at St. Michaels H.S. in St. Michaels, Md., Nichols majored in religion and earned a master's from Teachers College in 1979. He was recently retired from college admissions positions around the country. A man of kindness, warmth and generosity, Nichols had a style and flair that led him to pick his nickname, "Randazzle." An extremely loyal Columbian, he was *CCT*'s CC'75 class correspondent 1996–2021, chaired his 40th class reunion, was a member of the 45th Reunion Committee, was a reunion fundraiser and Class Agent, and a member of the Columbia Pride board, the Society of Columbia Graduates, the Columbia Alumni Singers and CAA Arts Access. Nichols enjoyed sailing and supported *The Pride of Baltimore II*, Maryland's replica of a Baltimore Clipper, and had become one of the Family Historians helping to curate the collection of Harley D. Nichols Artwork. He loved traveling and visited Europe, Asia and Egypt, among others, and had a special fondness for NYC. He is survived by his brothers, Allan (Karen) and Mike (Nancy).

1977

David J. Landes, investor, Teaneck, N.J., on September 13, 2019. Born on February 4, 1956, Landes was raised on Chicago's South Side but lived most of his life in the New York area. A private investor and a lifelong learner, Landes left high school early to study in Israel at the Har Etzion yeshiva, of which he remained an active alumnus and cherished his close relationships with Rabbis Aharon Lichtenstein and Yehuda Amital. He majored in English literature, studied with Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik at Yeshiva University and earned a J.D. from Chicago, a Ph.D. in anthropol-

ogy from Princeton and an M.B.A. from NYU Stern. Landes's penetrating studies of contemporary Orthodox Judaism, deeply informed by anthropology, broke ground in the study of Jewish life and were published in several periodicals. Landes is survived by his mother, Naomi; wife of almost 40 years, Faye; children, Hana Mundhe (Rusik), Yitz (Daphna Ezrachi), Matt '18 (Mollie) and Adir; two grandchildren; and brothers, Jack Mundhe and Shai. Memorial contributions may be made to the Brooklyn Institute for Social Research (thebrooklyninstitute.com), The Etzion Foundation (etzionfoundation.org) or to the Furman CLL Research Center (give.weill.cornell.edu).

1979

Michael P. Kelly, attorney, Wilmington, Del., on January 10, 2022. Born on November 6, 1956, eight minutes after his identical twin, John '79, Kelly was class president at the Tower Hill School, a star wrestler, champion shot putter and outstanding amateur boxer. Along with his brother, Kelly lettered in football and track, co-captained the Lions track team his senior year and was awarded the Gustave A. Jaeger Memorial Prize for athletics. He graduated from Dickinson Law School, where he met his wife, Deanna, and returned to Wilmington, practicing law for 37 years, including as chair of McCarter and English 2009–19. Passionate about trying cases, his clients included Joe Frazier, Jay-Z, Diane von Fürstenberg, the New York Giants and several monarchs. A lifetime member of the NAACP, a Knight of Malta and Knight of Columbus, Kelly joked that he was a member of many prestigious clubs including Costco and BJ's, and was on the waiting list for Sam's Club. He was predeceased by his twin brothers, Albert and Joseph, and is survived by his wife; son, Michael; daughter, Joanna '14; identical twin, John '79 (Marie); and sister, Mary Ann MacDonald (Michael). Memorial contributions may be made to the Little Sisters of the Poor (littlesistersofthepoor.org), The Ministry of Caring (ministryofcaring.org), Limen House-Triad (limende.org) or the NAACP (naacp.org).

Robert S. Richman, poet and editor, Greenwich, Conn., on May 2, 2021. Born in Paterson, N.J., Richman launched a literary journal in college, *Some Other Magazine.* His poems appeared in several literary magazines including *The Paris Review,* and he was the longtime poetry editor for *The New Criterion.* Richman published several volumes of his own poetry, including *Voice on the Wind* (1997), and edited the anthology *The Direction of Poetry* (1988). He is survived by a brother; daughters, Batina, Emma and Francesca; and one grandson.

1980

Edward T. Shamy, journalist, Georgia, Vt., on November 27, 2021. Shamy, who was president of the Student Government Association at Parkway Central H.S. in St. Louis, majored in political science, played soccer and tended bar at Hanratty's to offset the cost of college. His early adventures included a Jack Kerouac '44-style hitchhiking journey across the United States and a Peace Corps stint in Paraguay before he launched into a career in journalism, where he embraced the motto "Comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable." He was a reporter, editor and columnist in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Washington, D.C., Vermont and Virginia, where in 1990 he was a Pulitzer Prize finalist with a team from the *Roanoke Times & World News* for its coverage of a coal miners' strike. At *The Burlington Free Press,* where he was the metro editor and later a columnist (1999–2008), and *The County Courier,* the subscription-based weekly he owned 2008–14, his hyper-local focus and penchant for the offbeat inspired many evocative stories about the life and times of the "real" Vermont. Shamy is survived by his wife, Kim Asch; son, Ezra; three children from his first marriage, Corinne Lawson (Alex), Lillian and Alex; two grandchildren; and several siblings. Memorial contributions may be made to YMCA Camp Abnaki (campabnaki.org).

1981

Louis S. Antonelli, journalist and writer, Clarksville, Texas, on October 6, 2021. Born in Medford, Mass., Antonelli's love of journalism and public service began in high school when he was a reporter for several local newspapers and served on the Rockland planning committee, and continued when he wrote for *Spectator* and was a University Senator. After graduation, he launched and published *The West Side Spirit* and ran for Congress on the Upper West Side as a Republican. In 1985 he moved to Texas, wrote for the community newspaper in Mesquite and owned the *Cedar Hill Sentinel* for several years. In Cedar Hill he was elected to the local school board and married Patricia Randolph. After working for the *Malakoff News,* he became editor of the *Mount Pleasant Tribune.* In 2015 he became editor of the *Clarksville Times,* and when the 145-year-old newspaper fell on hard times, he saved it by becoming its owner and publisher in 2018. Meanwhile, he launched another career as a science fiction author, writing 112 short stories and a novel, *Another Girl, Another Planet.* In addition to his wife, Antonelli is survived by his mother, Anna Savini; brother, Frank; and sister, Angela (Michael David). Memorial contributions may be made to the American Heart Association (heart.org/aha/memorial), Alzheimer's Association (act.alz.org/donate) or a local food pantry.

1985

Christopher M. Patterson, English professor, Plantation, Fla., on July 5, 2019. Patterson earned two master's degrees, from Notre Dame and Fordham, and became an English professor at several schools, including NYIT, Fordham and Nassau Community College. Popular among his students, he could be counted upon to add depth and humor to his classes. Patterson is survived by his brother, David; and sister, Lisa.

1991

Mary E. "Mellie" Anderson, gardener and philosopher, Sullivan, Maine, on January 21, 2022. Anderson was diagnosed with metastatic colorectal cancer and faced her diagnosis with determination, creativity and an exceptional love of life, spending her final year traveling and visiting with friends and family. She is survived by her fiancé, Bruce Bosinger.

1992

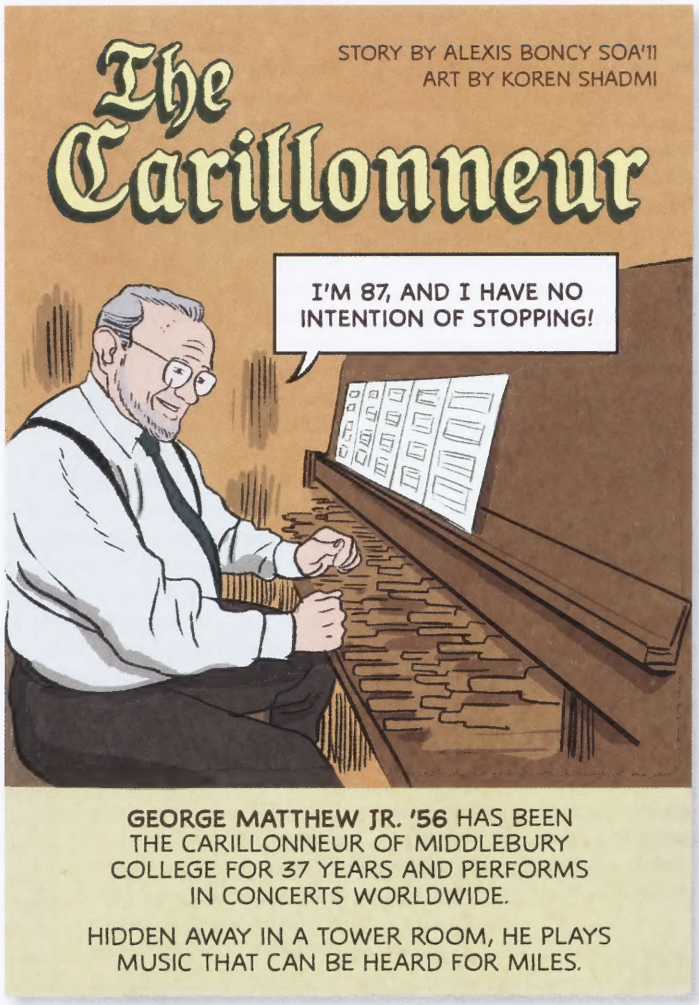
Chauncey D. "Chad" Steele IV, attorney and teacher, Chelsea, Mass., on September 1, 2021. Born in Boston, Steele graduated from Noble and Greenough School in Dedham, Mass. He was a member of Beta Theta Pi at the College, where he majored in classics and developed a lifelong interest in the ancient world that led him to make numerous visits to Italy and Greece to observe the history, architecture and relics. Steele graduated from Suffolk Law in 2000 and was a litigator for the Boston firms of Cetrulo & Capone and then Craig and Macauley Professional Corp. In his 30s he gave up his law career to teach in the Boston public schools, opening the eyes of his students to the history of the ancient world. He was a star hockey and football athlete in high school, started for three years at defensive back for Lions football and played tennis and golf after graduation. Steele is survived by his father, Chauncey "Chum" Steele; mother, Claudia Woods-Estin; stepmother, Deborah Thaxter; stepfather, Frances Woods; brother, Samuel "Bart"; and half-brothers, Daniel, Adam Woods and Gavin Woods. Memorial contributions may be made to the Center for the Study of Traumatic Encephalopathy Fund (bu.edu/alumni/giving).

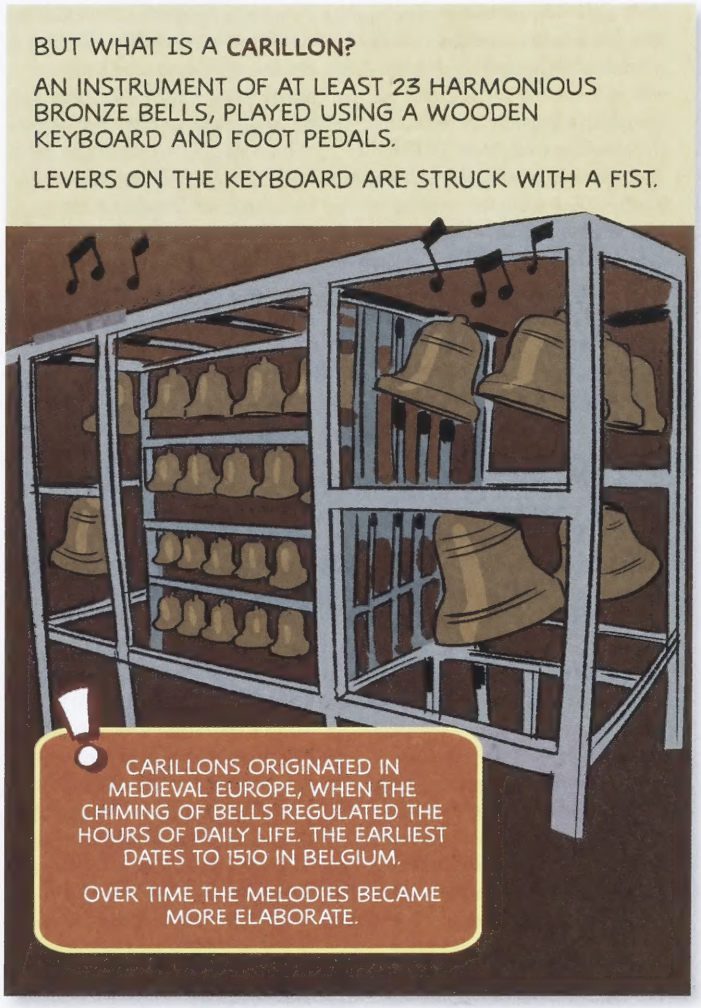
2005

Luis A. Saucedo, policy advisor, Washington, D.C., on January 22, 2022. A native of South El Monte, Calif., Saucedo was an economics major who was a compliance officer for the City of Los Angeles for four years before earning a master's from the Yale School of Management in 2012. He was a Presidential Management Fellow at Ginnie Mae and a senior policy analyst at the Federal Housing Finance Agency, then became a policy advisor for the Department of the Treasury in October 2021. Saucedo is survived by his father, Jesús; mother, Letitia; and brother, Jesús.

— Alex Sachare '71

read it online





CCT

GET THE STORY AT
college.columbia.edu/cct

THE CARILLONNEUR

When we read the Class Note about **George Matthew Jr. '56** in the Winter 2021–22 issue, we were immediately struck by his second-act career shift from chemist to carillonneur, as well as by the majesty of the instrument itself. What must it be like behind those bells? We had to learn more. And, inspired by profiles illustrated by Koren Shadmi — whose comics have appeared in *The New York Times, The New Yorker* and other publications — we decided that Matthew's story was made for artistic treatment. The first two panels appear here; we hope you join us online to take in the rest.



JAMIE DANIES SEAS'20; MICHAEL EDMONSON CC'20

"I enjoyed connecting with a student and hearing about their struggles and experiences from a place I was in only a few years ago. It helped me realize how I might mentor students and help them with the challenges they face finding a path through the competitive but transformative experience that is Columbia College."
— Myles Zhang CC'19, mentor

"I really enjoyed hearing about the life experience and perspectives of someone older. This helps me to have a more zoomed-out perspective when viewing my own life and challenges."
— Linda Pang CC'25, mentee







Join the Odyssey Mentoring Program and grow your Columbia College network! Through OMP, alumni and students have the opportunity to connect through in-person mentoring events or online. Alumni are able to join a community of 4,300 fellow mentors and share their knowledge and experience with students and young alumni. To sign up or learn more, please visit **odyssey.college.columbia.edu.**

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"As Core to Commencement nears its close, we extend our deepest appreciation to the alumni, parents and friends who have so generously supported the first comprehensive campaign devoted exclusively to Columbia College students and their faculty.

This momentous campaign has always been about creating the best possible future for our students. Thank you for helping to spark so many possibilities for their Morningside years and beyond."

Jonathan S. Lavine CC'88, P'CC'16, CC'18
Lisa L. Carnoy CC'89, P'CC'26
Victor H. Mendelson CC'89, P'CC'18, CC'20, CC'23

Co-chairs, Core to Commencement Campaign

